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Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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Jordan-Syria relations move into high gear

Summit planned between King Hussein and President Assad

By Ahmed Shaker

Special to The Star

A THAW in Relations between Jordan and Syria has already begun. Contacts between Jordanian and Syrian officials are now taking place at the highest levels. This is the result of the meetings between His Majesty King Hussein and Syria's President Hafez Al Assad in the Arab Summit that was held in Cairo early this week.

A meeting is scheduled for the end of July between Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti and his Syrian counterpart Mahmoud Al Zu'abi. This will be preceded by preparatory meetings between Jordanian and Syrian officials concerning security and political issues.

The Star learned that a meeting between King Hussein and President Assad took place one day before the summit. This was in the presence of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Three subsequent meetings occurred during the two-day summit.

King Hussein told President Mubarak that he has no personal differences with the Syrian president. However, Assad,

feels that there are other serious matters that need to be settled.

Jordan will do its utmost to see progress on the Syrian-Israeli peace track. Jordan rejects Syrian claims that it signed its peace treaty with Israel without Arab coordination. Jordanian officials also denied Syrian accusations of "running" to sign its peace treaty, since Egypt and the PLO signed peace accords before Jordan. Officials maintain that the Oslo agreement was a surprise for Jordan.

Moreover, there existed secret contacts between Syria and Israel, Jordan officials maintain. Jordanian-Syrian talks during the summit discussed the "51" terrorist attempts in Jordan made by armed men crossing the Syrian border. They planned to assassinate senior officials, hide explosives and attack Israeli tourists, it was stressed. President Assad denied that his country encouraged such acts and promised to follow up investigations and inform Jordanian officials about the outcome. The security meeting between the two countries is aimed to clear the air.

Syrian officials, in turn, said that Jordan harbors Syrian opposition members who are against the government.

Jordanian officials argued they have no right to act

against any Syrian living on Jordanian soil. They stated that Syrian Islamic members had left Jordan to other states, among them Syria.

Because Jordan has good relations with Turkey, it promised to help improve Syrian-Turkish relations. But Syria remains adamant arguing that Jordan continues to boost its relations with Turkey. Syria still argues that the latter occupies Arab lands and has a military agreement with Israel.

On the other hand, Jordan said that Iran occupies Arab islands, and supports terrorism against Bahrain. Yet, it has good relations with Syria.

During their meetings in the summit, the Jordanian side stressed that it does not interfere in the internal affairs of Arab states and accordingly does not accept intervention in its own affairs.

Syria claims that Turkey has taken a large share of its water from the Euphrates. In turn, Jordan accused Syria of taking a large quantity of Jordanian water.

Referring to the media campaigns, the Jordanian side said that Syria had started a negative press campaign against Jordan.

During the summit, the Syrian prime minister denied that such campaigns were taking place. He said that he was merely addressing the Jordanian people. This provoked a

reaction from Mr Kabariti who also denied that there was a campaign against the Syrian Prime Minister, but said that he was also addressing the Syrian people.

Points of differences between Jordan and Syria also concentrate on Iraq and Lebanon. Jordan was clear in its position towards the two countries: the unity of Iraq and the

independence of Lebanon.

Jordan stresses the need for comprehensive efforts to solve all issues before holding a summit between King Hussein and the president Assad.

What is important is that the two sides agreed to put an end to their differences, form committees to solve any misunderstanding and to engage in a constructive dialogue.

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Christopher reconfirms US commitment for land for peace

CAIRO (Combined Agencies)— Before leaving to Saudi Arabia, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher said the land for peace formula is the general principle but Arab states must be realistic if and when they resume peace talks with Israel. In a joint press conference with the Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa in Cairo, Christopher said "Washington remains committed to the general principle that Israel gives back Arab land in return for peaceful relations with its neighbors." Mr Arafat said that he was fully committed to the peace process.

Mr Christopher stepped into a crisis in Israeli-Egyptian relations Wednesday when he came to Cairo for talks with Egyptian and Palestinian Presidents Hosni Mubarak and Yasser Arafat.

The press hounded Christopher last Wednesday morning for appearing to endorse Israel's attempt to wriggle out of the agreements behind Arab-Israeli talks.

In Israel, President Ezer Weizman said he was worried by the growing "anti-Israeli" sentiment in Egypt, which

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Le prix du pain inquiète la population

A LIRE p. 12 dans LE JOURDAIN

Disregarding the environment, Energy Minister worried about government money

By Eyad Ammari

Special to The Star

ANOTHER DOMESTIC rumble may be brewing in government circles this week. A memo sent by the Energy Ministry, Hisham Al Dabbas to the Prime Minister, Abdel Karim Al Kabariti warns against the import of diesel-powered taxis.

The issue seems to be one of economy. The switch to diesel-powered vehicles is not yet viable since diesel and gas cost the government the same to produce. The minister stressed that since diesel is cheaper, it was bound to make a certain sector of the population (taxi drivers) somewhat better off.

The memo stressed that the diesel produced in Jordan must be upgraded to allow the use of diesel-powered passenger vehicles. But the environmental issue was clearly not taken in Dr Dabbas's calculation. Diesel is less hazardous to the environment.

Mohammed Khalifa, the Jordan Refinery Technical Manager, told The Star that the diesel used in Jordan is not as polluting as reports claim. "The sulfur content is 1.13% and it is the second lowest in the region. If only the Royal Scientific Society would do a study, then we would know—I



doubt whether they will find that we are close to exceeding the international limit."

Dr Dabbas disregarded environmental issues. The state currently uses leaded gas for passenger vehicles. Unfortunately, unleaded petrol was only recently introduced and its high price is discouraging all users from buying it. "The few that buy unleaded gas are those with vehicles that strictly specify the use of unleaded gas,

such as guests coming with their cars from the Gulf countries," a gas station owner said. Diesel fuel is much safer for humans than leaded gasoline.

The lead in the exhaust fumes, according to a recent World Bank Report, causes brain damage in infants, a hindering of the physical and mental growth of children and rheumatism in aging individuals.

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Labor law seen detrimental to workers' rights, unionists argue

By Raed Al Abed

Star Staff Writer

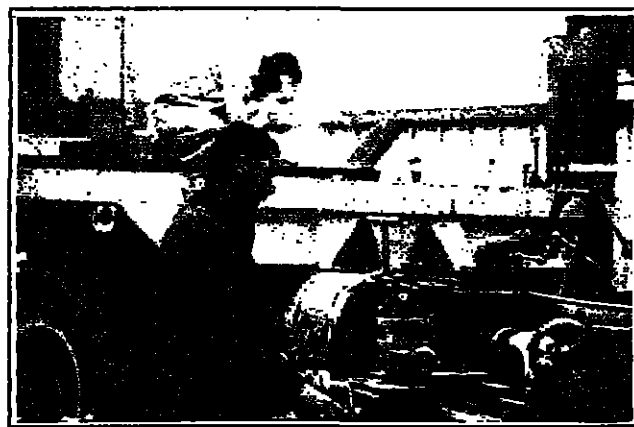
At the time that countries around the world are heading to create progressive industrial relations between the workers and bosses, for the sake of stability and productivity, we seem to be going backwards in Jordan.

The new labor law widens the gap between workers and employers. The labor movement opened fire on the law claiming that it oppressed workers and served the interests of employers. The latter described the law as balanced, progressive and as one that serves the business and workers' interests.

After more than a year of negotiations between the government, employers and the General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU), the new Labor Law no. (8) of 1996 was ratified by Parliament. It replaced the law of 1960, and was implemented last week.

The federation claims that both Parliament and government ignored the draft law which was agreed upon by the three parties concerned with production. "We were looking for a civilized labor law in line with the industrial and economic progress taking place in the region and Jordan," said Mr Mazin Al Maaita, deputy general secretary of the GFTU. "However, this law is very different from what was agreed upon through different stages of negotiations between the workers, employers and the government." He added "some of its articles really harm workers."

The GFTU is the umbrella organization for 17 trade unions in Jordan. It has about 200,000 members, and forms one-fourth of the 800,000-strong labor force in the country. The federation believes that the new law will further strain industrial relations, negatively effects economic devel-



opment and worsen industrial productivity in the country.

Employers on the other hand, believe that the law shows "great sympathy with workers" and seeks to build a mutual understanding between workers and employers to serve their interest. "The law is a model for the underdeveloped countries. It aspires to

laborers' interests to create a partnership between workers and employers," said Mr Ali Al Dajani, an adviser in the Amman Chamber of Industry.

"The law removed all ambiguities in the previous law and gave workers new rights."

However, the controversy focuses on a number of articles in the new law. Article 23 of

the law gives employers the right to terminate contracts either individually or collectively after giving them a one month notice. Article 31 also gives the employer the right to reorganize his establishment.

"These articles, in particular, are one of the reasons why we wanted a new law in the first place, because they threatened the stability and security of workers," Maaita explained.

The federation is worried that the above articles will give employers the chance to expel some of their workers who have been there for a long time and enjoy established privileges for the long service. Employers can replace them with new workers.

"In the case of unfair dismissals, the worker can go to the industrial court. If (she) wins the case, the employer has two choices, either to compensate or to reinstate the workers in their old job," Dajani said. "The pre-

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Bomb kills 19 at air force compound in Saudi Arabia

By Norman Kempster

LA Times-Washington Post

News Service

WASHINGTON—A powerful truck bomb exploded outside a high-rise apartment building housing US Air Force personnel in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday night, killing 19 Americans and injuring more than 386 others, US officials said.

A visibly angry President Clinton vowed to track down and punish the bombers. He dispatched a team of FBI bomb specialists to the scene to assist Saudi investigators. The bombing was the second against US interests in Saudi Arabia in less than a year.

A Pentagon statement said the bomb, contained in a fuel truck, exploded outside the Khobar Towers, a US housing compound on a Saudi air base near Dhahran, in eastern Saudi Arabia. Saudi, French and British personnel are also stationed at the King Abdulaziz Air Base.

The blast, so powerful that it was heard in the neighboring

emirate of Bahrain, destroyed one building and dug a crater 35 feet deep and 85 feet across.

"The explosion appears to be the work of terrorists, and if that is the case, like all Americans, I am outraged by it," Clinton said at the White House.

"We will pursue this," he said. "America takes care of our own. The cowards who committed this murderous act must not go unpunished."

Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole, campaigning in Cleveland, said he wanted to "express my sorrow, obviously, to those who might have been injured."

A senior Pentagon official said all of the dead and wounded counted so far are Americans. About 105 of the wounded were in serious conditions. There may be additional casualties to Saudis and, perhaps, British or French, he said.

It was the worst Middle East terrorist attack against Americans since the 1983 bombing of the Marine headquarters in Beirut that killed 241 US servicemen.

The State Department said Ted Kattouf, the US charge d'affaires in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, traveled to Dhahran as soon as he received word of the attack. Air Force Maj. Gen Kurt B. Anderson, commander of the US air wing in Saudi Arabia, was the senior US military officer on the scene.

The Pentagon said the blast occurred around 10 pm local time, an hour when many off-duty personnel would be in the Khobar Towers housing compound.

The senior Pentagon official said the truck was driven within 35 yards of the towers. He said an Air Force guard spotted the truck and immediately informed US and Saudi security forces. The official said the drivers of the truck saw the Saudi police coming, leaped out of the truck and were picked up by a white car that sped away.

The Saudi guards tried to

Continued on page 3

Greece mourns death of prime minister papandreou

By Tyler Marshall

LA Times-Washington Post

News Service

ATHENS, Greece, June 23—Former Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, one of the most colorful, controversial political figures of post-World War II Europe, died early Sunday, news media reported. He was 77 years old.

Athens radio stations interrupted their broadcasts to announce that Papandreou died from heart failure at 2:30 am at his home in the northern Athens suburb of Ekali.

There was no immediate official announcement, but the radio stations reported that Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis, who was elected to lead Greece's Socialists in January because of Papandreou's ill health, was returning immediately from a European Union summit in Florence, Italy.

Papandreou returned to Greece from exile in 1974 to help restore democracy to its birthplace after the collapse of military rule only to preside over many of its more

questionable moments during his years as prime minister. He rejected overtures from others and founded his own political party—the Panhellenic Socialist Movement—and went on to dominate the politics of his country for the better part of two decades, serving as prime minister between 1981-89 and again from 1993 through the beginning of this year.

Still, he accomplished little of his declared agenda to transform Greece into a modern social democratic state and an influential third force in the global arena.

But his populist appeal, personal magnetism and his governments' liberal spending spree tained his popularity among both the down-trodden and the intellectual left.

"One of the most courageous and committed politicians I have ever met," commented one of his former Cabinet ministers, actress Melina Mercouri.

Papandreou's world view was heavily influenced by a powerful love-hate relationship with the United States, where he lived for nearly 20 years. He became an Ameri-

can citizen, served in the US Navy and taught economics at four American universities, including the University of California, Berkeley.

It was there that he reshaped his existing leftist ideals amid the anti-establishment radicalism that stemmed from college campuses in the 1960s.

"People try to search for his roots here, but there are none," said Thanos Voremis, director general of the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy. "They can be found in a kind of Berkeley-style of radicalism."

His deep mistrust of American foreign policy became a guiding principle through much of his time in power. He denounced Washington as "a metropolis of imperialism."

Papandreou's vision of Greece as an important international player, his election slogans such as "Greece for the Greeks" and contempt for the United States led admirers to think of him as a kind of Hellenic Charles de Gaulle. In fact, he was far less.

of the Cold War and reached out to international pariahs of the 1970s and 1980s, such as Libya's Moammar Gadhafi, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Poland's martial law leader Wojciech Jaruzelski. He snubbed the United States by opening a Greek Embassy in Cuba.

But he never followed up threats to pull Greece out of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the then-European Community or to close American military bases in Greece.

At home, his politics were not so much European socialist as a thinly disguised populism. Papandreou built roads, schools and hospitals in poor areas when and where votes were needed but never undertook the comprehensive reforms so desperately needed to modernize the country's infrastructure.

His last years in power were clouded both by a steadfast refusal to stand aside despite failing health and by his controversial relationship with an Olympic Airways flight attendant, Dimitra Liani—a woman one critic described as half Papandreou's age and twice his size.

She eventually became Papandreou's third wife and Europe's most unlikely first



lady. The image of the frail, aging Papandreou shuffling alongside his much-younger wife gave a diminished, tragicomic dimension to a man who many had thought of as a political giant.

Accounts of their life in the sprawling pink villa they built together in a leafy Athens suburb, and the group of hangers-on—including three hairdressers and an astrologer—that held forth there merely added to the image of decadence and decline. "A flawed Ionian Caesar," concluded a commentary in the London Financial Times as early as 1989.

It was Papandreou's efforts in 1995 to launch Dimitra into politics that finally unplugged his personal popularity and brought comparisons with a less flattering historical figure, Argentine dictator Juan D. Peron. "He's one of the most fascinating characters (modern) Greek history has produced, but after all the sound and fury, he signifies nothing," Veremis said.

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JORDAN

WEEK

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar

King stresses need for dialogue at summit

AMMAN (Star)—The Arab summit is seen as a great success in Jordan. Speaking to the Arab summit in Cairo, the King said that Arab states should shun disputes and work jointly to secure a better future for their peoples.

"We maintain that every Arab state has the right to seek protection in a united Arab stand," the King told the summit. But he emphasized that "we deny any state the right to protect the forces of evil and terrorism (forces) that seek to achieve their designs at times under the guise of religion and at others under the pretext of ideology."

The King told the summit that the state of Arab affairs was still characterized by frustration and the only way to move forward is "to hold ourselves accountable by the same standards, to develop our ability for calm reasoning and understanding and for Arab countries to acknowledge the errors of slogans."

Terrorism and violence are the opposite to peace and stability, said the King at the first Arab summit in six years.

"We repeat one more time that provocation, intimidation, and interference in the affairs of others attract dangerous reactions. The policy of employing terrorism in all directions will only create enemies on all fronts," King Hussein said.

"When we emphasize the need to develop relations with others, we equally stress that these relations must be guided by mutual respect, committed to non-interference, characterized by good neighborliness, and distinguished by nobility of spirit," said the King. "Our dialogue must be conducted with words, not bullets and explosives."

"Terrorism is condemned in all fronts. There is no terrorism that is acceptable and another that is unacceptable."

He was also unequivocal in expressing determination to pursue peace and protect that which has been achieved since.

"We have opted for peace as a strategic choice," said the King. "We intend to preserve our achievements, to consolidate them and to enhance them. We shall not return to the starting point, but we shall forge ahead," said King Hussein.

The King said peace has two dimensions which means negotiations and proposals and the realization of real peace whose objectives are stability, growth, development.

"This necessarily means that we refuse to let the peace process continue forever if this implies that negotiations become in themselves the objective for the achievement of goals far removed from peace," he said.

The King said the Palestinian problem is the essence of the conflict, and without a solution to it, peace cannot be comprehensive.

"(Peace) cannot be just unless it secures the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people on their national soil, under their legitimate leadership which was elected by free ballot," King Hussein said.

The King said peace must also include the return to Syria of its territories that were occupied after June 4, 1967 as stated in Security Council Resolution 242 and the return to Lebanon of its occupied land and sovereignty as called for by the Resolution 425.

The most recent developments in the region must not lead us to panic, which would reflect unduly our position. Duty calls upon us to reconfirm what all the recent Arab positions asserted, the call for a just and comprehensive peace as a strategic choice, and the inadmissibility of going back or relinquishing what has been achieved," King Hussein said. ■

Security forces foil assassination attempt on Prince Hassan

■ HRH Crown Prince Hassan was subject to an assassination attempt, a top official told *Al-Sabaa* weekly. He added that Jordanian security officers foiled the attempt in the last minute. He added that a file containing terrorist attempts was handed over by His Majesty King Hussein to the Egyptian President Mubarak at the Arab Summit that was held earlier this week at Cairo.

Ensour meets Christian spiritual leaders

■ Minister of Education Abdallah Ensour received Monday in Amman the Catholic Patriarch Of Jerusalem and Jordan Michel Sabbah, in the presence of the Catholic Bishop of Amman Salim Al Sayeh and the Secretary General of the Middle East Church Council priest Riyadh Jarjour. The two sides discussed a number of issues concerning churches and Jordanian Christians. Dr Ensour



Ensour

affirmed Jordan's keenness to enhance horizons of cooperation with the church and its role in spreading the message of love, tolerance and solidarity among its countrymen. Patriarch Sabbah lauded Jordan's courageous, moderate and tolerant stands towards different regional issues under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein.

Netanyahu to visit Jordan

■ Now that the Arab summit is set again to be in the driver's seat. High level sources now expect the new Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu to visit Jordan, some time next July.

Russeifeh, a quagmire of pollution

■ The 400,000-strong city of Russeifeh is badly in need of rescue. Dilapidating at a fast rate, it cries out for municipal services. Each citizen of that city pays an annual JD 40 dues to the council, yet the services are poor and most of the time non-existent. Drinking water is polluted and the percentage of chlorine in the water is too high, something that would ultimately affect the lives of the people. The Zerqa stream passes at the heart of Russeifeh. While this maybe a good thing in other town, and cities, in Russeifeh



Mansour

IAF deputies meet in the north

■ Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies may have started their campaign a little bit too early. This time it was in Mafrq. Going in full strength and including IAF deputies, such as Hamza Mansour, Bassam Al Umoush, Ahmed Al Kofahi and Theib Anees, the delegation held a seminar in Al Mafrq that was widely attended by the citizens of the north. Mansour told the audience that the priority of the party is to apply Islamic Sharia law. However, he stressed the fact that the idea of *Shura* and the democratic experiment must be guarded. He praised Jordanian democracy and said that the party felt at ease when it started in 1989.

Meanwhile, Mansour has been busy lobbying Prime Minister Abdel Karim Al Kabarti. This time it is the case of 22 employees in the Ministry of Health. These people are demanding to be classified in the Civil Service scale of employment. They have been in their jobs for the last six years.



Jahid Rifaat/Dustour

El Al in town

■ El Al, Israel's national airline has made its maiden flight to Jordan last week when it made its first touch down in the Queen Alia International Airport. It could be argued that this further symbolizes the cementing of relations between the two countries. And El Al is coming to Jordan in a very big way. It will be flying to Amman five times a week.

While not forcing normalization on anybody, as officials have stated time and again, this latest move must surely be seen as a politically correct one on the part of the government. But is this really the right term to use, when there is a sedate but not so vociferous camp who are against normalization with Israel. Whatever the case, the opening of the air transport routes must surely be seen as a political victory for the government.

But for a victory, there must be a coherent opposition, and I would not call what we have

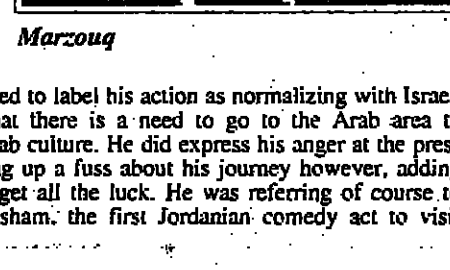
at present coherent, rather more lame duck, and hence I wouldn't want to congratulate the government in that respect. However, other business interests might not be too pleased with the arrival of El Al. Royal Jordanian, at moment under investigation, might not be too pleased with another major competitor. Because of El Al's cheap tickets to Europe, it may force RJ's to cut its tickets by at least 50 percent. That wouldn't be very good for RJ, but it would be excellent news for the ordinary traveller.

Jordanian newspaper have been going head over heels in accepting El Al ads in their newspapers. While some have at first refused such advertising, it is rumored that others succumbed to government pressure. Still, there are others who are still holding the fort, but I wonder, for how long!

Marzouq in Israel

■ Marzouq, that lovable home-grown character of Jordanian comedy has just returned from Israel. Marzouq, played by Hassan Ibrahim went all the way to the 1948 Arab areas in Israel to play in Aka and Nazareth. He refused to label his action as normalizing with Israel.

He argued that there is a need to go to the Arab area to strengthen Arab culture. He did express his anger at the press for not kicking up a fuss about his journey however, adding some people get all the luck. He was referring of course to Nabil and Hisham, the first Jordanian comedy act to visit Israel.



Marzouq

ing out a study of the really needy people in the country. The purpose is to see whether they are eligible for Supply Coupons. It wants to cut on the supply for all coupons to those who are really in need.

Teachers rejected

■ UNRWA has rejected tens of potential teachers in their schools after they passed the initial test for the job. *Al*

Sabeel reported. UNRWA officials told the weekly that the Dep't of Public Security rejected the teachers applications. It is said that more than 31 teachers have been rejected. The newspaper added that the number has been much higher than that. The 31 figure only applies to those who teach Islamic studies.

ANNONCE

Monsieur Bernard BAJOLET, Ambassadeur de France en Jordanie, invite cordialement les Français en Jordanie à la réception qu'il offrira à l'occasion de la Fête Nationale, le DIMANCHE 14 juillet 1996 de 19 H 30 à 21h30, à la Résidence de France à Amman. Les cartons d'invitation, qui seront exigés à l'entrée de la Résidence, peuvent être retirés dès maintenant et avant le 6 juillet à l'Ambassade, sur présentation d'une carte d'identité.

Greece mourns death

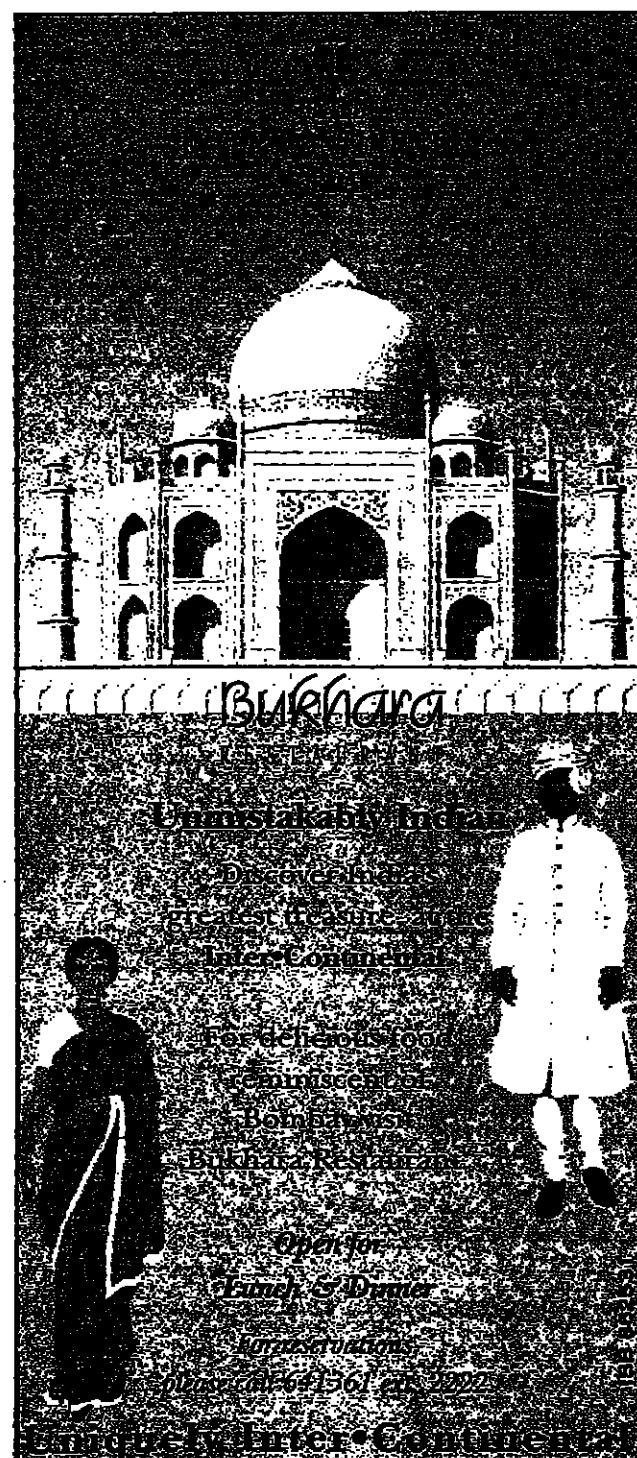
Continued from page 1

Andreas George Papandreou was born 5 Feb. 1919, the only child of Sophia and George Papandreou, himself a future Greek premier and then the governor of the Greek island of Chios in the Aegean Sea. Papandreou became a top student at the American College in Athens and followed that with law school. But as leader of a Trotskyist group, he quickly ran afoul of the Greek military dictatorship.

joining the faculties of the University of Minnesota, Northwestern and, in 1955, UC Berkeley, where he became a full professor and, later, chairman of the economics department.

Papandreou made his first trip back to Greece in 1953 and six years later returned permanently, accepting an offer from the then-Prime Minister Constantine Karamanlis to form a Center for Economic Research in Athens.

In 1964, Papandreou renounced his US citizenship to run for the Greek Parliament from his father's home district of Patras. He won decisively and became chief aide to his father, who had become prime minister. ■



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HAPPY FLYING ON RJ

Jordan had no role in excluding Iraq from summit—Kabariti said

By Hamdan Al Hajj
Special to The Star

THE ARAB summit held in Cairo was highly successful, the Prime Minister Abdel Karim Al Kabariti told a meeting of Lower House deputies last Tuesday.

"The meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and the Syrian President Hafez Al Assad was fruitful and aimed at building a new phase of cooperation," Mr Abdul Karim Kabariti said.

During their meeting with Mr Kabariti, some deputies said that the Arab summit was engineered by the United States. Yet, others said it was a natural reaction to Benjamin Netanyahu's victory in the Israeli elections, while others argued it was a Saudi-Egyptian-Syrian event.

Deputies focused on the Iraqi absence from the summit, and asked why it was excluded? The prime minister stressed that "Jordan did not play any role in this matter." He added "the exclusion of Iraq was agreed upon in Syria."

The meeting between Mr Kabariti and the deputies tackled many subjects including the circumstances behind the convening of the summit, the Jordanian role in improving inter-Arab relations, and its relations with Turkey and Iran. The peace process and the so-called regional security file were on top of the agenda at the meeting. It was a frank discussion, as described by deputies.

Ten opposition deputies including eight Islamists, Mrs Tojan Faisal, and Khalil Hadadin attended the meeting, in addition to five ministers.

Deputies concentrated on the normalization of relations between Jordan and Israel, the Turkish-Israeli military treaty and its effect on Syria.

They argued that Syria considered this treaty as a real danger. However, the government defended Turkey's right to form any alliance with any country, and did not see any danger in this.

The deputies demanded that the prime minister disclose the terrorism file, but Mr Kabariti refused, saying it would have a harmful effect on society.

Deputies agreed that the summit was successful. They stressed that the meetings between Arab leaders and officials is in itself a great achievement. They called for the resumption of those meetings as a way to strengthen Arab understanding. Jordanian delegates to the summit were unable to meet with the Kuwaiti Crown Prince, Sheikh Said Al Abdullah Al Sabah who headed the Kuwaiti delegation. Sheikh Sa'ad did not participate in the sessions of the summit. ■



● His Majesty King Hussein meets Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Friday, one day before the official opening of the two-day Arab summit that began on Saturday.

Pakistan's Ambassador in Amman

'The unity of the Arab and Muslim world is a positive factor in international politics'



Naqvi

Photo by Fouad Jhour

EDITOR'S NOTE: Syed Ali Sarwar Naqvi is Pakistan's ambassador to Jordan. A seasoned diplomat, Mr Naqvi is well versed in world politics having served on many international panels dealing with such issues as Namibia, international disarmament and the environment. As a Pakistani envoy, he served in Paris, London, Algiers and Washington. Mr Naqvi talked to *The Star's* Marwan Al Asmar about the Jordan-Pakistan relations, cooperation, Arab relations and development. Excerpts follow:

How do you see the current Jordanian-Pakistani relations at the present time?

The bilateral relations between Jordan and Pakistan have been warm and cordial and it is a great relationship of friendship and affinity. The relationship goes back to the 50s soon after Pakistan's creation. And soon after his accession to the throne, His Majesty King Hussein visited Pakistan as one of the first foreign trips that he made in 1954.

This warm relationship has been accompanied by the happy marriage of HRH Prince Hassan with HRH Princess Sarvath. We also have had many instances of solidarity between the two countries in difficult times like in the 1967 War when we were very closely associated with Jordanian defence efforts and also in Pakistan's own difficulties and war. Jordanian defence forces have stood by us.

Now the relationship is happily further improving and there is a lot of activity in regards to our bilateral relations. We've had a number of high level visits to Jordan from Pakistan. In the last economic summit, our delegation was led by the Minister of Commerce, a very important member of our cabinet. Mr Ahmed Mukhtar. Subsequently, we have had the official visit of the Chief of our Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Abbas Khattak in April. And then we also had a visit by the delegation of the Sindh Assembly led by the Speaker.

A federal minister and a special assistant to the Prime Minister, Mrs Shahnaz Wazir Ali was here in Amman to attend the UNESCO conference on education last week. We have also just invited the Minister of Tourism and Minister of Energy to Pakistan; they will be going there at the end of the year.

On the tourism subject, what exactly will be discussed?

They will be discussing the conclusion of a tourism agreement between Pakistan and Jordan. As you know, we already have a weekly flight of our national airline, PIA, to Amman and there is also one weekly RJ flight to Karachi. We hope to have more flights, and hope to establish contact between major tour operators in Jordan and Pakistan, and they will be planning tour groups and package tours, and we hope to exchange common experiences in the development of the tourism industry.

Is there really a potential for development in the tourism field between the two countries?

Yes, there is. The last two Pakistani trade exhibitions were seen as a way of boosting trade between the two countries. Yet, a lot of traders were complaining that taxes imposed by the government in Jordan were too high. How do you feel about that?

When I came to Amman in March 1995, I found that trade between the two countries was rather modest and there is a considerable scope for increasing the volume of trade. So, the first thing I did was that I persuaded the Export Promotion Bureau in Pakistan, which is the specialized body for holding trade fairs, to hold a Pakistani trade fair in Amman. Last November, 40 Pakistani companies participated and it was a successful fair. Now there are plans for more fairs and private groups are now coming directly to Amman to display their products and to take orders. Towards the end of this year, I hope there will be another Pakistani trade fair sponsored by private companies because the emphasis should now be on this sector. As regards the taxes, some exporters did complain, but it should not be made a major issue because they do have to pay the taxes in this country and it is fair to expect that the will be charged as it is the case with other exporters. I don't think that it is such a serious matter, because even after that, they did make a reasonable profit.

So overall, people were happy?

Yes, I think so. The actual solution to this problem is being sought and being found out in the signing of a trade agreement between Pakistan and Jordan. The Ministry of Trade and Industry has given me a draft trade agreement which I have sent to the Pakistani government and I expect in a few months time we will agree on the text of the draft agreement and we will be able to sign a trade agreement. Once we have such an agreement, then maybe there will be a reduction in some of the taxes under that bilateral arrangement.

As a Muslim country, how do you see the role of Pakistan in the Arab world and will it be enhanced in the current climate of peace?

Traditionally, we have had very close relationship with the Arab world, because, as a Muslim country, we feel special affinity for our Arab and Muslim brothers. So, we have always played an active role, we have hosted a major summit of the Islamic Conference in Lahore in 1974 and subsequently been very active in the organization of the Islamic Conference and played an active role in the UN on the Palestinian question. The unity of the Arab world and the unity of the Muslim world is a positive factor in international politics. The reason why there are so many problems is because of a lack of unity. Pakistan supports the peace process and we think it is a step towards the resolution of the tensions in this region. Pakistan coordinates its policies on the peace process with the Organization of Islamic Conference.

How do you feel about the normalization issue with Israel?

We are watching the evolution of the peace process, and, as you can imagine, we don't have the same compulsions that the other countries of the region have in regards to normalization with Israel. So, the government of Pakistan supports the peace process and is closely observing the situation and is in touch with other members of the OIC and it has not yet made any forward move towards recognition of Israel, but it will be keeping the matter under review. ■

How do you see the role of Pakistan in the post-cold war era?

It is true that the tensions that have been generated by superpower rivalry have now disappeared. Pakistan was directly affected by these tensions in the Afghan situation. We were the target of superpower rivalry because the Soviets at that time sent 100,000 troops into Afghanistan. So, we know the experience of superpower rivalry and how it used to affect developing countries. That tension which had a negative effect has now gone and we are happy about that. However, the world has another set of problems which it has to face. The problem is not that of a bipolar world, but it is more economic, the disparity of resources and of wealth between the developed and the developing countries. The problem has been noted in the North-South Dialogue and in the UNCTAD in the UN and regional groups, and it remains on the agenda of many countries as a very serious matter because we can't hope to improve the lot of our peoples if there is this great disparity and it continues. We have to now look at the world scene and try to reach certain agreements which would provide a solution to the disparity and provide a system of assistance to the developing countries, not necessarily in terms of grants and finances, but a process that would help us further to develop and also to be able to compete favorably with the developed countries. ■

Christopher reconfirms US commitment for land for peace

Continued from page 1

was the first Arab state to make peace with Israel. US State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters Christopher was trying to "enlist Egyptian support for continuing Arab negotiations with Israel."

While in Israel earlier in the week, Christopher agreed with new right-wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that such talks should be without preconditions—the diplomatic code for Israel renouncing a commitment to give back Arab territory.

"Basically what we heard from the Israelis is that the Israelis do want peace negotiations," Burns said. But Egypt and its Arab allies have repeatedly rejected such revisionism and wanted Christopher to explain Netanyahu's policies and the US attitude toward them, diplomats said. Christopher met Mubarak for one hour but Mubarak then left the palace and US embassy officials said a news conference by the two of them had been cancelled. They gave no explanation.

Christopher later began talks at Mubarak's palace with Arafat and Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa.

Arafat, arriving in Cairo Wednesday morning, said: "Netanyahu must commit himself to the agreements we have reached. One of these agreements is that Jewish settlements is not allowed during the transitional period." Expanding Jewish settlements in the West Bank is on top of the agenda of Israel's government.

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"In the strangest press conference,



"There... its pulse is settling faster already!"

Our Say...

The case for joint Arab action

CONTRARY TO expectations, the recent Arab summit was seen in Jordan as unqualified success. Despite the latent differences in the Arab World, the 21 countries meeting in Cairo, hammered out a communiqué that demonstrated a political will and resolve which has the potentials for joint Arab actions, not only regarding the peace process but also in facing the challenges of the future.

The Arab Summit displayed, for the first time in six years, a common stand on perception and pragmatism. Its endorsement of the peace process reflected the sign of the times, a mode of thought that was based on self-confidence. The Arab consensus, long forgotten by internal differences that were brought to the fore by the last Gulf War, proved that it could be transcended in the cause of common interests.

The warning of regional repercussions if Israel doesn't stick to the current course of the peace process was necessary. The Arabs' commitment to the land for peace formula was a reinstatement of the basic ground rules already agreed upon, in Madrid, Oslo, Washington and Cairo, and—above all—confirmed by UN resolutions.

Nevertheless, Arab leaders felt it is necessary to reiterate these principles. They stood firm, delivering a strong, collective, coherent and a clear message to the Israeli leadership that Arab countries will not tolerate violations of international peace commitments. Netanyahu must not renege on what was agreed upon, and Israel has a duty towards the Palestinians, and the Arabs and indeed, the international community.

The moderate tone of the communiqué was drawn up in such a way as to give leeway to Mr Netanyahu to allow him to proceed with the peace process at an acceptable pace. This does not constitute condemnation of Israel. There was not even a hint regarding the level of normalization between some countries and Israel, though Arab leaders felt strongly that if the peace process did not move forward, the situation would merit re-consideration.

For the first time in six years, the venue proved a rallying point for inter-Arab reconciliation. While it was feared that the summit would degenerate into a slinging match, it wasn't, with Arab leaders carrying the day and focusing on the major issues facing them.

The meeting between HM King Hussein and Syria's President Hafez Al Assad was a case in point, proving that turning a new leaf in the relations was not as hard as it was originally thought. While not so much as solving all inter-Arab relations, the summit demonstrated that the leaders have more in common than they have in differences. In a gallant move, they showed that they were prepared to put their differences aside and argue in terms of one united front. However, we must not be under any illusions. This is the beginning of the road, and the next few weeks and months will prove just how far the Arab stand has succeeded in influencing the behavior of the new Israeli government regarding the peace process and in consolidating the common stand that was achieved in Cairo. ■

Yeltsin purges Russian military of seven top generals

By Lee Hockstader
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

MOSCOW—President Boris Yeltsin dismissed seven high-ranking generals last Tuesday in a purge of top military echelons that appeared to raise still further the stature of his new national security adviser, retired Lt. Gen. Alexander Lebed.

The seven sacked generals include four whom Lebed accused of plotting to block the dismissal of Defense Minister Pavel Grachev—an army general who was fired by Yeltsin last Tuesday at Lebed's insistence.

Immediately after Grachev's dismissal, Lebed held a news conference in which he suggested that he

had personally foiled what amounted to a coup masterminded by the four generals. The four denied any such intention, and top government officials also dismissed Lebed's version of events. Nonetheless, it appeared that Yeltsin's decision to depose so many high-ranking officers close to Grachev could only boost the influence of Lebed—with whom Grachev has been feuding for years.

As Yeltsin's national security adviser, Lebed has no formal authority over the military, but he already has identified his choice to succeed Grachev as defense minister, and Yeltsin has suggested he will have broad authority to carry out a long-delayed reform of the

armed forces.

Lebed also seemed to extend his authority when he played a key role in ousting three old-line Kremlin officials last Thursday after a mysterious episode that appeared to stem from a struggle for influence between rival groups of Yeltsin advisers.

Yeltsin named Lebed to his new job just 36 hours after Lebed's surprisingly strong third-place finish last week in the first round of Russia's hard-fought presidential election. The move was meant to persuade Lebed's 11 million voters to cast their ballots for Yeltsin in the runoff race against Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov on 3 July. ■

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A view from America

Netanyahu's true colors begin to show

Carrie Nelle Moye
US Star correspondent

MANY HISTORIANS insist the actions of humankind are cyclical, yet we stage-players hardly, if ever, seem to benefit from the past. World War I was the "war to end all wars." So why World War II? The Cold War—which was all too hot, all too often? The Korean Conflict? The non-war of Vietnam? Whenever there is a glimmer of peace, one imagines how wonderful if (this time) it will be different. Then reality slaps in all its fury once more as we find ourselves the pawns of ever-fickle fate.

And saying "I told you so" never is any fun.

As ironic as it may seem, this time it is not the tentativeness of the elections in Russia, with the run-off between Boris Yeltsin and Gennady Zyuganov to be held in a month. Rather, it is the finality of the election of Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu and what it portends—that it already has triggered—that has brought an abrupt end to the micro-steps toward international peace. For if there is no bona fide peace in the Middle East, there can be no true contentment in the world.

Suppose the worst case scenario occurred in Russia. If Communist candidate Zyuganov should win (which appears nearly impossible now), the free world could cope. It has been proven—deadly so—that Communism cannot and will not be the wave of the future, no matter what Russia does. The former Soviet Union not only has been shattered, but the pieces, even when viewed in hindsight as a collective, were shown to be facades of prosperity. While Reagan was spending the US into Star Wars oblivion, the USSR did not begin to have the military wherewithal we were led to believe, which most certainly was known by the closest advisors to our early-onset-of-Alzheimer's president.

The Middle East is another story entirely. It was on a most tenuous but promising road to peace when Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated. Shimon Peres performed at his best but lacked the leadership qualifications, in spite of his experience, to make the Israelis feel secure. Most specifically, he was willing to compromise with his cousins descended from Abraham, live alongside them, and recognize their right to exist as a people and as a country. Yet foolishly he took the bait offered by right-wingers and initiated his "Grapes of Wrath" attacks on southern Lebanon, which proved to be a

fatal public relations disaster.

Meanwhile, die-hard hawks, led by the ultra-rightist religious zealots who feel that they and only they are the chosen people, would not consent to the peaceful side of the philosophy of Peres. They, abetted by their equally fanatical Islamic counterparts, managed to generate enough fear to cull a plurality of Israeli voters. We have observed the outcome for several weeks now, and we are beginning to see the poisonous fruit of the election of Benjamin Netanyahu. Although he has pledged to "continue the peace process," only at a "slower rate," and declared his cabinet appointees are moderates rather than persons selected from the radical fringe, nevertheless, he has said he will never return the Golan Heights captured from Syria in the 1967 Six Day War. Most tellingly, Netanyahu has refused to meet with any Palestinian leader, most notably Yasser Arafat, the top elected Palestinian official and is adamant in his comments that there will never be a Palestinian state.

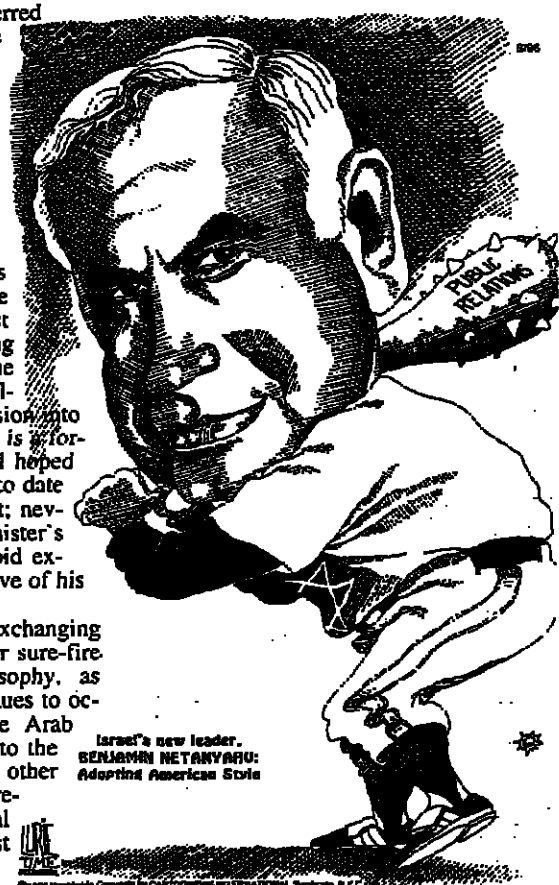
If he adheres to these avowed policies, there is no way peace can survive—and this is an absolute. Although Rabin and Peres had allowed a continuation of construction of new Jewish settlements in the Occupied Territories, which is a direct violation of the Camp David Accords, it had been toned down. Now Netanyahu has stated bluntly that he wants the settlements expanded. The ultimate insult is that he first offered the Ministry of Housing portfolio to Ariel Sharon, the former general who led the ill-fated "Peace for Galilee" invasion into Lebanon in 1982. Sharon, who is former Defense Minister and had hoped to occupy this position again, to date has refused the secondary post; nevertheless, the new Prime Minister's willingness to appoint this rabid expansionist is chillingly indicative of his intent.

Refusing even to consider exchanging the Golan for peace in another sure-fire indication of hawkish philosophy, as Syria's Hafez Al Assad continues to occupy the cat-bird seat in the Arab world. He will not call a halt to the Lebanon-based Hezbollah and other right-wing attacks unless he regains this strategic piece of real estate which, like the West Bank and Gaza, were seized in

1967.

Netanyahu has been a lion in sheep's clothing from way, way back. His appearance is one of conciliation; his English is impeccable (which, for whatever reasons, goes far with the US populace). Before becoming pudgy, he was exceedingly handsome. In other words, he has an abundance of charisma. This should not matter. But in reality it does. For a while, he will appear to be a suitable replacement for Rabin/Peres. But this artificial demeanor will not endure. Moderate Jews in Israel and elsewhere already know and bemoan this; Western government officials know this. Obviously the Arabs know this.

And when these results begin to become public knowledge, the world will know this. It is a time of anguish for Israel; it is a time of anguish for the 48th-year homeless Palestinians; it is a time for anguish for those who seek peace. Once again, the death mask of history reveals its evil grin. ■



Israel's new leader, BENJAMIN NETANYAHU, adopting American style.

Nixon, Kennedy

Unmitigated cold warriors

Kennedy & Nixon: the rivalry that shaped postwar America, by Christopher Matthews (Simon & Schuster, \$25, 377 pp.)

Reviewed by
Oliver Stone

THE RIVALRY between John Kennedy and Richard Nixon personified the seminal tension that drove postwar American politics for some 30 years. As these two ambitious veterans of the Pacific War sought to define themselves on issues domestic and foreign, fitting themselves to their turbulent times, voters inevitably shaped their political consciousness in relation to them. Public perception of each was a mirror of the other. You either loved or hated them; neutrality was practically impossible. And while both had a genius for getting votes, the defining fact of the Kennedy-Nixon careers was that many more people loved JFK than hated him, while more hated Nixon than ever managed to love him.

Christopher Matthews, a syndicated political columnist, TV commentator and Washington bureau chief for the *San Francisco Examiner*, has attempted to trace this vital rivalry in his book, *Kennedy & Nixon*. Yet one would never know from this study that the author was describing the two most compelling political figures of recent times.

A key theme is that the men were actually friends, but their is little or no documentation for this questionable assertion. Moreover, there are annoying factual errors, misquotes even of famous phrases and a complete absence of what has been called the "deep politics" of this pivotal period in American history. Matthews' book is history-at-face-value, a popular gloss intended for a public that lacks the sophistication to demand more detail, more insight, and more truth.

This last point is illustrated as early as the introduction, when Matthews blandly insinuates a conclusion that is so wrong-headed, so completely unfounded, as to make the entire book suspect.

The subject is Nixon's instruction to his chief of staff, Bob Haldeman, on the 23 June, 1972, White House tape, to use the CIA to shut off the FBI's probe of the Watergate burglary. Matthews asserts that Nixon's aim in committing this impeachable offense was to



Kennedy



Nixon

prevent the exposure of "what he believed to be Kennedy's secret bungling and betrayal of the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion." There is no reference to this specific motive anywhere in the 23 June conversation, and no serious student of Watergate has, to my knowledge, ever proposed such an interpretation of the "smoking gun." The very idea that Nixon would risk removal from office in an effort, in effect, to conceal Kennedy's role in the Bay of Pigs is not only absurd on its face, it flatly contradicts the historical record contained in the Watergate transcripts as well as most of Matthews' own book.

In the closing chapters, Matthews tries to shade this bizarre view by suggesting that Nixon was attempting to attach to his own Watergate scandal the shield that had protected Kennedy from exposure for more than a decade. Here, oddly, Matthews comes close to a truth that he carefully avoids in his book: that as Nixon himself said, Watergate "tracked back" directly to the Bay of Pigs.

It is in this regard that "Kennedy & Nixon" passes from the realm of merely unremarkable popular history into historical cover-up. For, while admitting in passing that the CIA plots to assassinate Cuban leader Fidel Castro began during the Eisenhower-Nixon administration, Matthews seeks to shift the responsibility for them entirely onto Kennedy. It was JFK and his brother, Robert, he says, who pushed for Castro's murder, ignoring Nixon's heavily-documented involvement in attempts to get rid of Castro.

Matthews quotes CIA Director Richard Bissell's assertion that it was "inconceivable" that Kennedy did not know of the plots. Given that the overthrow of Castro was to have been

nothing more to Dallas than one lone nut, and no more to Watergate than a "third-rate burglary," he knowingly repeats Marina Oswald's preposterous and totally discredited account of locking her husband, Lee, in the bathroom to prevent him from shooting Nixon. And he appears to be blithely unaware of the many permutations of Watergate, chief among them that six of the seven convicted burglars were CIA operatives who had been involved in the Bay of Pigs.

Finally, Matthews declares that Kennedy died "as he lived," an unmitigated Cold Warrior. This despite the fact that at the close of his brief tenure, Kennedy had sought détente with the Soviets, better relations with Cuba and a withdrawal from Vietnam following the 1964 election, which he did not survive to win.

The book, in sum, is a bland argument, not a history. ■

Stone is the co-writer, producer and director of the Academy Award-nominated films "JFK" and "Nixon."



"Gee whiz! It looks so nutritious!"

Good Men

21 GOOD men met, and decided to pursue peace. 21 men who did not differ from the start regarding their belief in peace. It was the wishful thinking of those fatalists who hoped for division among the Arab ranks that had spread earlier, which created stories regarding irreconcilable differences among Jordan and Syria. The fact remains that Syria has shown its realism in its pursuit of the peace option and will continue to do so at a pace which suits its own conditions, and ironically at a pace which might suit Netanyahu's conditions.

Probably, for once, Syria and Israel may have one thing in common: that is the pace in which they would like to proceed to reach a peace settlement. None of the 21 good men meeting in Cairo can or would push Syria more than it possibly can, but equally they have all shown support to president Assad's efforts of peace.

As for our Palestinian brothers, the issue is crystal clear and they ought to put aside their suspicions, and proceed with confidence in reaching their own suitable agreement with Israel. All have confirmed their belief in the creation of an independent Palestinian state on an independent Palestinian soil, an objective which has always been supported by Jordan.

The Arab nation has affirmed its belief in peace and is united in achieving its objectives. A clear message has been sent in the meantime to the Israeli prime minister reminding him of the essence of reaching a peace agreement with Israel. The Madrid conference should be the reference point of peace, and what has been achieved with the previous labor government must be built upon rather than undermined. The official Arab stance is that there will be reconsideration of position regarding peace if Israel does not honor previous commitments and Israel responded by saying that there should be no preconditions. But the end result of this game of war of words is more of flinching rather than discord.

We all know that there is no alternative to peace and that both sides have no choice but to deal with each other. The Arab side will have to give Mr Netanyahu the important period of grace to be able to maneuver his policies with his cabinet allies. Mr Netanyahu will have to understand that the Arab rhetoric is the reflection of a nation concerned about the future of the peace process and more than eager to bring it to the safe shores of accord.

The Arab-Israeli conflict and solving the Palestinian riddle which is the core of the conflict must be put in its proper international dimension for the end of the millennium has forced new realities on the region that were obscured by superpower competitions and domination. Countries which have always been part of the region but caught up in different concerns such as Turkey and Iran, are now powerful players in our part of the world and must be treated as partners.

We are all caught up in a most important and threatening situation involving the two main issues of water and terrorism. If Iran and Turkey are ignored in our calculations in the Arab world then we would be no better than ostriches sticking our heads in the sand and hoping that terrorism and the water crisis are nothing but a nightmare that will vanish.

We rather castigate the cooperation agreement between Turkey and Israel when in effect we should collectively castigate terrorism and its supporters. We must start to seriously approach the water question and the issue of terrorism with much more vehemence both regionally and extra-regionally. The task ahead for our good men is still arduous. ■

Foreign Exchange

	96/11
US	0.7160
£	1.0916
DM	0.6622
¥	0.5906
₹	0.1364
₪	0.2589
₦	0.4124
₧	0.0461

THURSDAY

	96/11
US	0.7160
£	1.0916
DM	0.6622
¥	0.5906
₹	0.1364
₪	0.2589
₦	0.4124
₧	0.0461

Business scene

Germany is writing-off JD 4.5 million of Jordanian debts. The debt relief is within the framework of German support of the promotion of environmental projects that were agreed on by the two countries.

The Jordanian Marketing Co., made a net profit of JD 29,300 in 1995. Shareholders rights were raised by 2.2%, to reach JD 1.42 million. The company's circulated loss decreased by JD 26,000 to reach JD 236,700. Sales in 1995 reached JD 1.4 million.

Statistics produced by the Amman Financial Market show an increase in foreign contributions in the Al Ahli Bank, 0.219% to reach 21.087%. Foreigners bought 35.3 thousand shares from 12 to 19 June. In addition, foreigners contributed in the capital of the Cement Industries Co., also rose from 7.642% to 7.679%.

The Arab Paper Trade and Manufacture Co., recorded a profit of JD 215,000 till last April. Its sales were JD 2.17 million.

Twenty Jordanian shareholding companies issued new shares valued at JD 87.1 million during the first five months of the current year. This is compared to JD 80.65 million for 1995, and shows a rise of 7.9%. Newly established companies issued shares worth JD 58.8 million during the first five months of this year against JD 68.4 million during the same period in 1995. This reflects a decline of 13.8%. Sources in the Amman Financial Market said that the old companies issued new shares of JD 28.1 million in 1995 to cover their new investment projects. The number of companies in the parallel and regular markets are 128. About 64 other companies are still waiting to be listed in these two markets. The primary market, issued development bonds valued at JD 10 million, in addition to JD 1.5 million of new shares. The total issues reached JD 25 million last May.

Japan granted Jordan \$3.7 million to finance the purchase of fertilizers and agricultural equipment. This is the fourth donation given by the Japanese to Jordan, and is part of a program to boost the production of foodstuffs.

A new JD 5 million mortgage company has just been established. The objectives of the Jordan Refinance of Mortgage Co., is to offer loans for people who want to buy their houses.

Foreign Exchange
Wednesday, 26 JUNE

	Buy JD	Sell JD
US \$	0.7080	0.7100
£	1.0916	1.0968
DM	0.4622	0.4645
Sfr.	0.5606	0.5634
FRF	0.1364	0.1371
YEN (100)	0.6489	0.6521
DEL	0.4124	0.4145
LIT (100)	0.0461	0.0463

Cairo economic summit to highlight economic policy reforms

By George S. Hishmeh

WASHINGTON—A major topic of the Cairo economic summit, scheduled to open in the Egyptian capital on 12 November, according to US Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs Joan Spero, will be "economic policy reforms at the national level to encourage investment and private sector growth."

Spero told a 21 June kickoff briefing at the Commerce Department for American businessmen who are expected to participate in the three-day conference in Egypt that the summit will also "emphasize the important role of deregulation and privatization" for small, medium and large enterprises. Co-hosting the briefing was Undersecretary of Commerce for International Trade Stuart Eizenstat who underlined that prosperity, whether in the Middle East, Northern Ireland or Bosnia, was "the best antidote to the appeal of violence."

The Middle East/North Africa economic summit, according to the senior Commerce official, "served to refocus the world attention on that region and the trade and investment opportunities that it offers."

Spero and Eizenstat were also flanked by Toni Verstandig, deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs, and Judith Barnett, who is to assume the office of deputy assistant secretary for the Near East at the Commerce Department, as well as the ambassadors of Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia and Oman and the head of the Palestine Liberation Office in Washington.

Spero began by noting that while diplomacy was necessary to negotiate peace, "it is economic growth and cooperation that are essential if peace is to take root."

As the Middle East peace process was moving forward, she continued, "it became clear that efforts by governments alone would not be sufficient. Private sector-led growth is clearly the best route to rapid, sustainable economic development. This is the model that worked in East Asia and Latin America, and it will work in the Middle East as well."

In other words, she underlined, "governments can make peace, and they can create the climate for economic growth, but only the private sector can marshal the resources necessary for sustained growth and development."

She noted with satisfaction that national policies in the region that "stood in the way of the private sector are being changed, making each country in the region more business-friendly and open to trade."

At the regional level, she identified the regional contacts and institutions that have been built "to anchor the peace process and build a solid foundation for private sector growth."

Her point was that "all these developments are mutually reinforcing, as peace, economic reform and regional contacts build on the others' successes."

At this point, she discussed the Middle East Development Bank, whose US share of its funding is facing an uphill fight in Congress, and accordingly has consumed most of her time, compared with the other summit institutions—the Regional Business Council and the Middle East-Mediterranean Travel and Tourism Association.

Acting much like a merchant bank, she said the bank will use its small capital base "to lever-

age its existing resources in the private sector, the World Bank and other multilateral institutions."

She explained that these resources are for supporting regional infrastructure development, fostering private sector investment and promoting regional economic cooperation through "a policy dialogue forum."

Additionally, the bank will use its lending policy to support privatization and removal of state subsidies.

She stressed, "We are confident that this unique institution is the right approach to promote regional development in the Middle East."

Spero then reviewed the highlights of the earlier two

summits. At Casablanca, site of the first conference, the message was the free mingling "for the first time" of Arab and Israeli business and government leaders.

At Amman, the summit "clearly demonstrated the importance of economic reform to promote sustainable development."

In Cairo, she stressed, "we hope to take it one step further by linking business deals to specific reform steps on the part of the regional governments."

She said the program offered for the Cairo summit will focus on specific sectors of the Middle Eastern economy: food and agriculture, chemicals, electronics, engineering and con-

struction, energy, financial services, textiles, transportation, and tourism.

While past meetings laid the foundations for regional cooperation, Spero promised, "this meeting will seek to build on those foundations and produce concrete results."

Eizenstat's presentation was more nuts and bolts, spelling out what the Commerce Department hopes to do in the time before and during the summit to provide "every feasible service to ensure that the American business community is a full partner in every aspect of the summit."

Recalling that at Casablanca Secretary of State Warren Christopher described the region as "open for business," and at Amman it was "in business," Eizenstat said, "In Cairo we hope to declare that the Middle East and North Africa are conducting business as usual."

He reported that intra-trade in the Middle East amounts to only eight percent of total trade while, by contrast, in the European Union it is estimated to reach about 60 percent.

He told a room packed full of American businessmen that the Cairo summit "is the most efficient and effective manner of meeting the governments and business leaders of the Middle East and North Africa."

The best way to strengthen the peace process in areas like Northern Ireland, the Middle East and Bosnia, particularly in an era of limited foreign assistance, is to marshal the great resources of the American private sector for trade, for joint ventures (and) for investment,"

He continued. "Prosperity is,

...Intra-trade in the Middle East amounts to only eight percent of total trade while, by contrast, in the European Union it is estimated to reach about 60 percent.

Greater investment needed for growth ACC study concludes

AMMAN (Star)—Unemployment seems to be a greater curse in the world than it was 10 years ago. The Arab world and Jordan have their fair share.

The Amman Chamber of Commerce (ACC), recently published an economic study of the labor force in the Arab World. The number of manpower including males and female reached 69 million persons in 1994. This constitutes 28% of the total population, compared with 49% in the industrialized states and 44% in the developing countries.

The unemployment rate in some Arab countries is between 10%-20%. The study predicted that nearly 2.5 million Arab laborers will join the labor market in the coming few years. If no major investments programs are created, the rate

of unemployment will continue to rise, the study warned.

It called for improving laborer force's productive capacity, which is presently below global standards. This would have a knock-on effect because it would generate further productivity in the economy and hence create a bigger labor force.

According to the study, the agricultural sector contributes 14 percent to the Gross Domestic Product in the Arab World, while the contribution of the industrial sector is 30%, and 45% in the service sector. Like most developing countries, this last sector tends to figure prominently in the region.

The volume of indebtedness in the 13 non-oil producing countries plus two oil producing (Algeria and Oman), reached \$155 billion (1991 fig-

ures). Although, it has oil, the population of Algeria is far too high, thus putting numerous constraint on its development. Iraq is not included in the study because of its special conditions.

These figures don't apply to the rest of the oil-producing countries who have a surplus finance.

However, overall, Arab states are considered amongst the highest indebted countries in the world. Accordingly, some of them have embarked on a World Bank sponsored debt rescheduling program. These include Algeria, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco and Mauritania.

Debt re-scheduling is a partial solution. However, what is needed is greater investments and development projects, the study concluded.

Insurance market thrives, says report

THE TENTH insurance report revealed that the total installments of car insurance was nearly JD 27 million in 1994, representing 41% of total insurance premiums. This figure is compared to JD 20 million for 1991. This shows a rise of 12% of car insurance.

Paid indemnities of car insurance reached JD 20 million. It represented 52% of total paid indemnities in the insurance market. This is compared to only JD 13 million in 1991.

The report showed that the share of insurance companies from car insurance premiums reached JD 24 million in 1994. Insurance companies' share was 89% of these installments, while the remainder 11% was for re-insurance companies.

Increase of paid indemnities during 1994 is due to the rise in the price of spare parts in

the country of origin in addition to the rise in the costs of medical treatment.

Insurance companies started making use of the computer in their activities since the late eighties, when the Jordan National Insurance Co., was a pioneer in introducing this service.

The computer enables insurance companies to carry out their activities in an accurate, and organized way. It helps these companies to save time, effort and expenditure.

The use of the computer in insurance also helps process file claims in a faster way, through the use of electronic archives instead of large numbers of files which require large place for storage. In addition, it facilitates contact among insurance companies on the local market as well as contacts with international insurance companies outside for re-insurance.

BM expands loyalty programme to Air Canada

BRITISH MIDLAND is to link up with Air Canada in an agreement which will allow members of both airline's frequent flyer programmes the opportunity to earn and redeem points for free flights with either carrier.

From 1 June, members of British Midland's Diamond Club programmes can earn and redeem their points for travel with Air Canada on its range of direct services from Heathrow, Paris, Brussels, Zurich and Frankfurt to five major cities on Canada's East Coast, and four on the West Coast.

In reciprocity, members of Air Canada Aeroplan will be able to redeem their points for travel on British Midland's extensive network of flights to Europe and within the UK.

Business Chronicle

By Mohammad Adawiya

Corporate culture, does it exist in Jordan?

MOST MAJOR financial centers of the world have a collection of principles, values and ethics which define and guide behavior in the business community. It is this set of norms which acts to unify a worker with his organization and a national to his country. Corporate culture is indeed to the business community what a personality is to an individual, and in Jordan it may very well be a neglected key element in the country's economic restructuring program.

In Jordan, we see a lack of any coherent and uniform set of values which serve to unite the corporate community. As a result, we observe a number of individual agendas, moving in various directions, without any common objective. This, unfortunately, is the impression potential foreign investors see and undoubtedly has an effect on investment decisions in the country.

While it's true that Jordan has a relatively well-educated and skilled labor force, it lacks a corporate culture. Either for reasons of novelty or inexperience with the concept, Jordan lacks an identity which defines and expresses this identity to the rest of the world.

On a more micro level, the business community within Jordan lacks the identity needed to unify the local workforce. It fails to give Jordanians the pride to be associated with a well recognized and prestigious multinational firm. The overwhelming majority of firms which carry with them a certain amount of prestige, and thus gives its members pride to be associated with them, are foreign firms. Jordan's business identity (to the extent that one exists) is therefore defined by foreign firms and thus we return to our original problem which is the lack of a national corporate identity.

The advantages of such an identity are numerous. Researchers believe that a positive correlation exists between strong culture and prosperous economic performance. A study by two US economists found that the effects of strong culture are increased profits and growth, increased productivity, innovation of products, and increased pride and loyalty in company membership. It can serve as a managerial tool to improve economic output by socializing group members to a set of defined values. The result is a more focused and efficient work group with a common objective.

This socially focussed economic restructuring or business identity, which has thus far been absent from any stimulus programs, and which is geared towards giving the country a unified corporate voice and which hopes to foster pride locally and respect abroad, is an approach which in my opinion is long overdue.

40 companies participate in Exhibition of Jordanian products in London

THE FIRST Jordan Business Week started in London on 25 June. Under the patronage of the Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr Ali Abu Al Raghib, and in cooperation with the British Chamber of Commerce, the week will last till 29 June. Over 40 Jordanian companies are taking part in the Business Week.

These activities of the week include an exhibition of Jordanian industries, an investment seminar and a roundtable meeting. On display also is foodstuffs, clothes and Dead Sea salts. An investment symposium was held at the London Hilton on 26 June discussing the investment environment in Jordan.

Today, Thursday, 27 June there is a roundtable at the Arab-Britain Chamber of Commerce to discuss commercial exchange between the two countries.

Economic relations between Jordan and Britain are good, however, the balance of trade is mostly in favour of Britain.

Jordan's exports to Britain during 1995 reached JD 3.4 million, while imports from Britain were JD 120.7 million dinars, making a trade deficit of JD 117.3 million dinars.

Among the most important exports to Britain are fresh and refrigerated vegetables, cotton strings, and clothes. Our imports from Britain cover aeroplane equipments, agricultural and industrial instruments, TV, spare parts, medicine, cigarettes, textiles and other materials.

Outstanding Achievement Award for BA

British Airways has made a record year end pre-tax profits of £565 million.

BA Amman's contribution was recognised with an Outstanding Achievement Award for 1995-1996. BA Amman has also broken the regional punctuality record, with every flight in May departing on time.

With a summer schedule of five weekly flights, British Airways looks forward to achieving even better results in Amman in 1996-1997.

Tender of JD 2.5 million for rural electricity

Dr Hashem Abu Dabbas, minister of energy and mineral resources said the ministry had recently awarded a tender to two local companies to supply 106 villages and housing complexes at a total cost of JD 2.5 million.

This project will provide electricity for rural areas in two stages in Balqa, Zarqa and Madaba. This project is financed by "Rural, Fils Fund," and will be completed in 10 months.

The project completed its first stage at a cost of JD 23 million to provide electricity for 388 villages and housing complexes. The second phase is divided into three categories, the first two cover complexes of more than 20 houses while the last includes complexes of between 10 to 20 houses.

MARKET WATCH

22-25 JUNE

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
+ Arab Pharm. Industry + Arab Aluminum Industry + Arab Electricity + Union Bank for Savings + Business Bank + Wooten Industries	+ Arab Aluminum Industry + JIMCO + Middle East Complex + Commercial Industry + Jordan Pipe Industry + Arab for Metal Pipe Industry	+ Zamp Education & Investment + Housing Bank + Middle East Pharm. + Ceramic Industry + Kowther for Investment + Business Bank	+ Al Nir Insurance + United Insurance + Business Bank + Wooten Industries + Int'l Textile Manuf + Amman Investment Bank
5.03 4.60 3.91 5.21 4.21 3.70	3.81 3.64 3.71 4.96 3.19 2.50	2.00 1.15 1.54 6.59 4.96 4.95	5.00 4.00 2.89 4.62 4.08 4.76
General Price Pointer	142,230	141,810	141,320
Trade Volume	495165	417995	425168
Stock Volume	347461	368065	277355
Highest Traded Stocks			
+ Arab Pharm.	68.071	+ Jordan Electricity	53.987
		+ Arab Bank	43.880
		+ Union Bank	112.953

All data provided by ACCESS Tel: 646868 Fax: 646949

LURIE'S WORLD



Palestine Post

\$10 million, Saudi donation for Palestinian projects

The Palestinian official news agency (Wafa) announced that Saudi Arabia donated \$10 million to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The agreement was signed in Vienna, in the presence of an UNRWA representative. Saudi Arabia had contributed \$7.5 million in 1995 to the Palestine National Authority (PNA). This was a contribution to cover part of the salaries of the Palestinian police in Gaza and Jericho. In 1994, Saudi Arabia also offered \$20 million as a general contribution to the PNA. The Saudis have promised to give aid to the PNA to the tune of \$100 million.

Tunisian businessmen delegation visits Israel

The Israeli businessman, Yossi Hadas said that a delegation comprising six Tunisian businessmen is currently visiting Israel to discuss means of cooperation. It is the first delegation, representing the private sector in Tunisia. The delegation includes agents of companies operating in the fields of energy, tourism and communications. The businessmen have visited many companies in Israel, and met with Israeli Foreign Minister, David Levy, the governor of Central Bank and officials from the Union of Israeli Chambers of Commerce. Tunisia is the sixth Arab country to establish diplomatic relations with Israel since the signing of the peace treaty between the PLO and Israel in 1993.



David Levy

Palestinian factions appeal for Arab solidarity

A number of Palestinian factions sent a memo to the Arab Summit held in Cairo recently. Representatives of these political parties held a joint meeting at "Fateh" headquarters in Gaza, to discuss the latest political developments. They called on Arab leaders to adopt a unified Arab stand and strategy to support the rights of Palestinians, and force Israel to stick to its peace commitments. It also stressed full support for the Palestine National Authority. In addition, Palestinian factions asked Arab leaders to confront strongly Israel's attempt to Judaize Jerusalem and. It is worth mentioning that the Arab summit met many of these demands as the final communique does call for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Workshop on living standards in occupied territories

Palestinian statistics are a must if proper development is to take place on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This was a conclusion of a workshop titled "living standards in Palestinian territories," which was organized by the Palestinian Department of Statistics. Participants included specialists in the PNA ministries, universities, research centers and statistical survey experts. They discussed figures of Palestinian families expenditure and consumption from October 1995 to March 1996. This survey started last October and will be completed in September, 1996. Final results are expected to be announced at the beginning of next year.

Islamic-Christian conference appeal for US president

The Islamic-Christian Conference held recently in Lebanon, called for the sending of 10 million letters for US President Bill Clinton. They called on him to pressure Israel to stop violations against Muslim and Christian Arabs in Jerusalem. These letters are being collected from Churches and Mosques all over the world and being forwarded to the White House.

Palestinian-Jordanian trade exchange gears up

The Corporation for Trade Promotion (CTPT) in Gaza, invited manufacturers and exporters to participate in the coming Palestinian delegation to Jordan which is to take place shortly. This visit comes within the context of the memo of mutual understanding that was agreed upon between the corporation and the Jordanian Exporters Association.

The director of the CTPT in Gaza, Najwa Al Sayegh stressed the need for such a visit to strengthen ties with Jordan and helps to study the marketing possibility of Jordanian products in Palestinian markets and vice-versa. Palestinian and Jordanian officials had previously signed an agreement of free trade, but it still requires activation between Jordan and the PNA areas.

The volume of trade between Jordan and Palestine, increased after the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian accord in September 1993. Jordanian exports to Palestine are valued at \$17 million, and Palestinian exports to Jordan reached \$30 million.

Arab summit ends with demand to Israel to adhere to 'land for peace' principle

Among other things, the leaders demanded a full Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Golan Heights; the removal of Jewish settlements from those territories; the establishment of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital; and Israeli recognition of the "right of return" for Palestinian refugees displaced in the Arab-Israeli wars.

By John Lancaster
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

CAIRO—Wrapping up their first summit in six years with a rare show of solidarity, Arab leaders warned that they will "reconsider the steps taken toward Israel" in recent years if that country's new government does not totally withdraw from captured Arab lands.

They issued a final communique demanding that Israel's new prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, adhere to the principle of "land for peace," which they see as the basis for a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Among other things, the leaders demanded a full Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Golan Heights; the removal of Jewish settlements from those territories; the establishment of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital; and Israeli recognition of the "right of return" for Palestinian refugees displaced in the Arab-Israeli wars.

Of most concern to Israel, the leaders implicitly threatened to reevaluate Arab moves toward normal relations with the Jewish state that have accompanied progress in Middle East peace negotiations carried out by Netanyahu's Labor Party predecessors.

"Backtracking on commitments ... or procrastination in implementing them would lead to a setback in the peace process, with all the dangers and repercussions that this implies, taking the region back to the



cycle of tension, which would force all the Arab states to reconsider the steps that have been taken toward Israel in the framework of the peace process," the document warned.

Netanyahu swiftly denounced the summit outcome as an attempt to lay down conditions for further Arab-Israeli negotiations. In a statement from his office and later in remarks to reporters, he did not respond to the Arabs' insistence on adherence to previous agreements signed by the defeated Labor Party government. Instead, he suggested the

firm language and demands for return of occupied Arab land are the wrong way to enhance chances for resuming talks and moving on to more agreements.

"The attempt to impose things and dictate preconditions in a way that upsets Israeli security is not appropriate in trying to achieve true peace," he declared.

Foreign Minister David Levy, taking Israel's criticism a step further, charged the communique contained "dictates" issued in a tone "that could be interpreted as a threat."

For all the fanfare surround-

ing the two-day summit—sponsored by Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia—the main thrust of the communique merely restated longstanding Arab demands for the return of Israeli-occupied Arab land. Although the communique contains implicit warnings, Syrian President Hafez Assad, in particular, had sought tougher language that would have threatened Israel with specific moves to tighten its economic and cultural isolation in the region.

Assad also clashed with Jordan's King Hussein, who has accused Syria of involvement

in terrorist infiltrations of Jordan and argued successfully for language condemning terrorism in the final communique.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, however, proclaimed the summit "a major success" that achieved its goals of bridging differences among Arab nations and sending a strong message of caution to the new Israeli prime minister.

In his campaign platform and recent policy statements, Netanyahu has seemed to rule out territorial concessions to the Arabs while insisting that he wants to continue the US-sponsored peace process that began with a conference in Madrid in 1991.

"We have received the Israeli message," Moussa told reporters last Sunday afternoon. "Now there is a message today from the Arabs. ... So let us see. As much as Israel advances, the Arab position will advance."

Besides the peace process, the Arab leaders dealt with other issues of regional concern, including a new and— they say—potentially destabilizing military pact between Turkey and Israel; accusations that Iran is stirring unrest in Bahrain; and UN sanctions against Libya, which the communique decried as "unjust." They also repeated calls for Israel to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and open its nuclear facilities to international inspection.

The Arab countries last held a summit in August 1990, a few days after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. That gathering

exposed deep differences within the "Arab nation," as a majority of countries, led by Egypt, joined the West in condemning Iraq's invasion. This weekend's gathering drew 22 members of the Arab League; Iraq was not invited.

Among the representatives were 14 heads of state, including Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, who caused a stir by flying here Saturday in violation of a UN flight ban stemming from Libya's refusal to hand over two suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Gadhafi continued to make waves last Sunday, ejecting Israeli journalists who tried to cover his news conference and expressing gratitude to Netanyahu for at least being clear about his intentions, even if they are hostile.

"Who is Netanyahu?" The new (prime minister) is thanked very much because he is working without hypocrisy," Gadhafi said. "This is much better than one who was deceiving us. The one before him (Labor Party leader Shimon Peres) they considered a man of peace and then he slaughtered us" during Israel's recent military offensive in Lebanon.

The leaders drafted the communique in two closed-door sessions. After the second session ended after midnight, they met for a brief final session and adjourned early Sunday afternoon.

Arabs see Palestine reality growing ever more remote

By Marjorie Miller
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

NABLUS, Occupied West Bank—The way cigarette vendor Fares Shukou understood the peace agreements that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has signed with Israel in the past three years, at the end of long and difficult negotiations, Palestinians would claim an independent state with its capital in East Jerusalem.

Now, along comes Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with a new, right-wing government, telling Shukou there will be no state and no capital in Jerusalem. Moreover, Netanyahu says Israel will expand Jewish settlements in West Bank lands that, to Shukou's mind, belong to what he thinks of as Palestine.

"We don't know if this is all talk," Shukou said, as if speaking for the dozens of unemployed men sitting on planters across the street from him. "If Netanyahu does carry out his program, we will have the 'intifada' (uprising) again. The revolt will resume."

For most Palestinians, as for Arafat, the initial shock of Netanyahu's razor-thin victory over Shimon Peres has turned into sinking realizations: A majority of Israelis rejected the peace accords for which Arafat already has played his biggest cards. Under Netanyahu, there is no state pot at the end of the rainbow. And the much-vaunted peace process with Israel could easily unravel in violence.

Despite what Palestinians call his policy of "Four Nos"—no Palestinian state, no Jerusa-

lem, no return of the Golan Heights to Syria and no return of Palestinian refugees—Netanyahu insists he will continue the internationally backed peace negotiations. Arafat put out a similar line to his political cadre before heading for a summit of Arab leaders in Cairo, Egypt, to analyze the prospects for peace.

Nablus Mayor Ghassan Shakah says the Palestinians stand by their "strategic decision" to end the 29-year Israeli occupation of the West Bank through peaceful means. "Of course, with Mr Netanyahu's declarations, we know this will be much more difficult for us. But we don't have any alternative. We have to keep pushing these negotiations," Shakah said.

The Palestinians' strategy, Shakah explains, is to rally international support at the Arab summit and in Europe, Japan and the United States. But he concedes that Arafat's Palestinian National Authority has no strategy as yet for rallying public opinion at home and keeping frustrated, out-of-work Pal-

estines from taking to the streets as they did during the seven-year intifada.

"We didn't think Netanyahu was going to win," Shakah said sheepishly.

Arafat did everything but campaign in Hebrew for Peres, with whom he had shared a Nobel Peace Prize, and in the process angered many of his own people.

In the aftermath of four suicide bombings by Islamists, Arafat launched a massive crackdown on the militant Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups, arresting not only their military and political leaders but also going into universities, social organizations and mosques to round up hundreds of suspected sympathizers.

Arafat tried to be understanding when Peres shut the doors on the Palestinian-ruled areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip after the bombings, halting trade and keeping tens of thousands of Palestinians from going to their jobs in Israel. Then he convinced his Palestine Liberation Organization to

overturn its decades-old call for the destruction of Israel—a long-standing demand of Israel's.

Peres lost anyway, and Arafat is faced with an Israeli prime minister who has not even mentioned the Palestinian leader's name publicly since his election. As prime minister-elect, Netanyahu made courtesy telephone calls to HM King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, with whom Israel also has peace agreements, and even to the foreign minister of Qatar. But not to Arafat.

Instead, Netanyahu dispatched his foreign policy adviser, Dore Gold, to telephone Arafat's negotiator, Mahmoud Abbas, to say that the new government would be in touch soon. Arafat said Netanyahu was "avoiding" him.

In his speech to the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, before being sworn in, Netanyahu said he would resume negotiations with the Palestinians on "conditions." His aides said he will present Arafat with a list of

"demands" that the Palestinian leader must fulfill before renewing talks, even though several of those requirements are to continue the security steps Arafat already has taken.

In fact, many of Netanyahu's positions are not that different from those of Peres. The former prime minister often presented Arafat with ultimatums and delayed Israeli compliance with the peace accords when he saw fit for security or political reasons.

While Netanyahu, 46, took office as "the new generation," it was the 73-year-old Peres who had made the leap from viewing Palestinians as pariahs to accepting them as partners. According to his book, *A Place Among the Nations*, Netanyahu holds the old view that the Arab world has not accepted Israel's existence and that Palestinians remain a hostile force.

In the new administration, Ariel Sharon, who has been offered the Ministry of National Infrastructure, still refers to Arafat as "a terrorist." New For-

eign Affairs Minister David Levy's idea of praise, as he tried to calm Arab concerns about the peace process this week, was to call Arafat "a fact on the ground."

Netanyahu's distrust is answered with Palestinian distrust. Palestinian leaders around Arafat view Netanyahu's guidelines as a rejection of the fundamental principle of trading land for peace that closes options for negotiation and, therefore, for peace. And a headline begets a headline.

Syria has advocated reviving the Arab boycott of Israel, and even Arafat reportedly has considered unilaterally declaring a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. Most likely the Arab leaders will be normalization of relations with Israel to peacemaking progress between the Jewish state and its neighbors.

In Palestinian cities such as Nablus, there is a growing desperation about the eight-party coalition government of "generals and rabbis," along with growing hunger from the prolonged closure.

Netanyahu's aides suggest that, if Arafat controls security, the Israeli government will open the gates for workers, trade and investment. To some political observers, it seems he means to offer economic incentives in place of political concessions.

But Palestinians say this will not suffice. "The people are not just mouths to feed and then they will be quiet," said Zuhair Dubie, editor of the weekly newspaper *Nablus*.

Arabs portray themselves as defenders of peace at summit

By John Daniszewski
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

CAIRO—Esmat Abdel-Meguid, secretary general of the Arab League, gestured to a map showing the vast sweep of the world's oldest multinational organization: from Morocco on the west coast of Africa to Oman at the eastern end of the Arabian Peninsula, a 4,000-mile stretch of territory inhabited by 200 million Arabs.

As he described it, they are one nation speaking one language, linked by history, culture and geography.

But as sheikhs, kings, princes, presidents and prime ministers from 21 of the 22 Arab League member states arrived in Cairo for the first pan-Arab summit in six years, Abdel-Meguid's vision of Arab unity contained more hope than reality.

Arab diplomats admit privately that it took the surprise election of Likud's Benjamin Netanyahu as Israeli prime minister to get their countries—all except Iraq, that is—to set aside their differences long enough to sit down together.

And before the summit started, it was unclear whether host Egypt would succeed in keeping the participants focused on the two official agenda items—the Middle East peace process and Arab cooperation—or whether side disputes such as the current squabbles between Syria and Jordan, Syria and Turkey, and Bahrain and

Iran would end up dominating the meeting: in the end it did not.

That the summit took place proves how much Netanyahu's slim victory on 29 May upset Arab assumptions. Attempts for the past two years to bring together an Arab summit had foundered; this one was organized in just two weeks. Before the Israeli vote, most of the Arab world was banking on incumbent Labor Party leader Shimon Peres being re-elected Israel's prime minister, and believed that by the end of the final phase of Arab-Israeli talks Israel would come to accept the key Arab demands.

Instead, Arabs say they now face an Israeli leader who seems unequivocal in his "No's" to what they had hoped to obtain: "No" to a Palestinian state, "No" to returning the Golan Heights to Syria, and "No" to sharing or dividing Jerusalem.

"The Arab regimes, especially the moderate regimes, are in a corner," said Egyptian commentator Mohammed Sid Ahmed. "More than ever, they are vulnerable, because they have been identifying themselves with a peace process that may no longer be there. ... The only thing that the Arabs have in their own hands is to come together."

The dilemma facing Arab leaders is finding the right balance between acting concerned and acting tough and last week they went for the latter.

For weeks, Arab newspapers have been filled with angry commentaries calling for

a strong response to show that the Arab world is not going to roll over before the new Israeli government. At the same time, the United States, the main sponsor of the peace process, has been urging moderation, warning Arabs not to do anything that would "close the door" on peace.

A draft communique approved at a pre-summit meeting by Arab foreign ministers last Friday attempted to strike a middle course. It proposed that the summit conclude with a firm challenge to Israel's new leadership to "save the peace process" by clearly accepting the "land-for-peace" principle that has been the foundation of the Arab-Israeli negotiations since 1991. In other words, summit organizers said, the Arabs are portraying themselves as the defenders of the peace process, and cast the Israelis as backsliders.

Anticipating the Arab position, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy met last Friday with Egypt's ambassador in Tel Aviv and denied any change in Israel's commitment to peace. There are "problems which must be clarified," but "there is no need to pressure Israel so that it will carry out its desire for peace," Levy told reporters.

Unlike past Arab summits, this meeting has not resulted in denunciations and threats, diplomats said, now that the Arab countries have a consensus for pursuing peace.

It is a strong summit, and it gave a clear message; But I would argue that it gave a

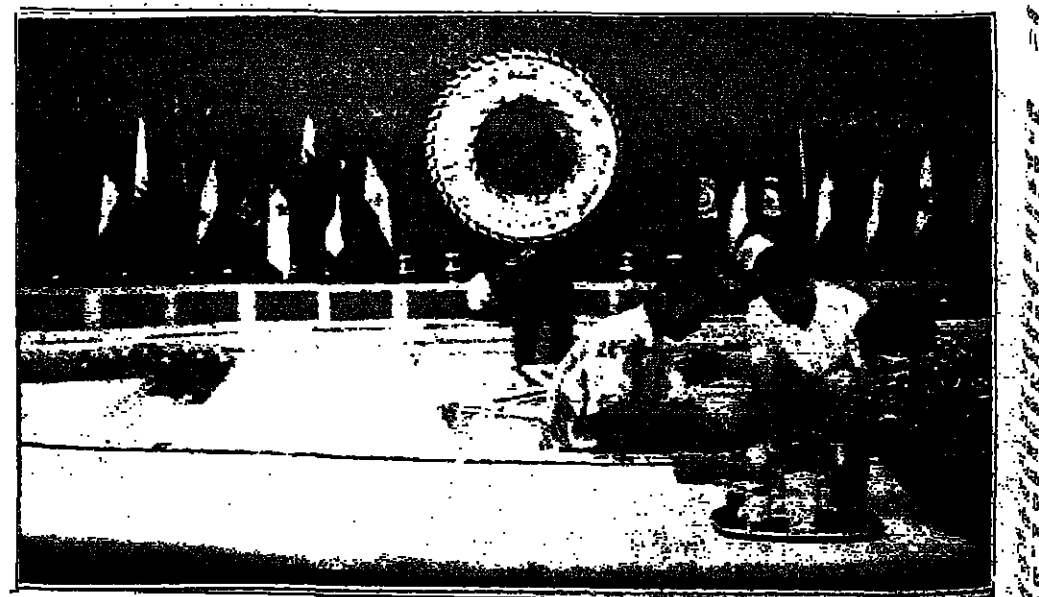
positive message, said Nabil Fahmy, Egypt's assistant foreign minister for political affairs. "The Arabs understand that peace is the only option."

Ahmed Nafei, an Arab affairs analyst at the Ahran Institute in Cairo, outlined what the costs to Israel might be if Netanyahu refuses to negotiate seriously on "land for peace." He said there would almost certainly be a slowdown or freeze in normalization among those countries that have already embarked on new relations.

Besides peace, the summit's main thrust was building Arab solidarity. But the decision by conference organizers Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia to exclude Iraq suggest that unity is still a way off.

Rifts have not healed since the Gulf War, when most Arab League states sided with the US-led alliance against Iraq. The divisions mean that the Arab League had been unable to meet since its failed crisis session on 10 August, 1990, just days after Iraq invaded Kuwait—not even to mark the organization's 50th anniversary last year.

Iraq is not the only regional sore point. In recent years, Syria has been angry with Jordan and with Yasser Arafat's Palestinian National Authority for reaching separate peace deals with Israel; Egypt has accused Sudan's Islamic government of



sheltering anti-Egyptian terrorists; and Bahrain has been disturbed by Syria's coziness with Iran—a non-Arab country that Bahrain holds responsible for an insurrection against its ruling dynasty.

Atlanta's heat and the Olympics

"If the conditions are nice, it's who is the better team," Hixonkkkk said. "But if the humidity is high, with the mental game and being scientifically prepared ... we think we can medal with this." ■

"If the conditions are nice, it's who is the better team," Hixonkkkk said. "But if the humidity is high, with the mental game and being scientifically prepared ... we think we can medal with this." ■

Tokyo offers unique fishing

But for the anglers of Ichigaya, their version of urban fishing is relaxing, challenging and uniquely suited to jam-packed, concrete-encased Tokyo.

Synthetic stimulants are becoming today's curse

Several factors appear to have facilitated this global diffusion. In Western countries, the benign image of these drugs compared to cocaine, the other stimulant available on illicit markets, has been a major factor. The availability of stimulants in the form of pills and tablets has contributed to the low-risk image of synthetic stimulants. Other advantages of synthetic stimulants are their low price and the much longer duration

All of this has clearly contributed to the spread of synthetic stimulant abuse. Future trends are difficult to predict, but the past offers little room for optimism. It is likely that the diffusion of illicit stimulants manufacture will, as in the past, contribute to rising illicit consumption. The option of producing synthetic stimulants in small quantities in kitchen laboratories has some disquieting implications in view of the recent trend in some countries towards decriminalizing the possession of small quantities for personal use.

In view of the rapid rise of clandestine manufacture and abuse of synthetic stimulants, a stark reality now confronts Governments throughout the world as well as many national control systems—designed primarily to prevent the misuse of licit pharmaceuticals and to ensure, at the same time, their availability for licit medical purposes—can no longer provide effective control. ■

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Evangelicals unite against the push and pull of politics

Or do you? Reed seems to have written this book in part to tell the impious among us that we don't know that his group has been the object of calumnies and distortions on a vast scale. And it must be admitted that he has a point. One event symbolized Reed the concept in which the even Eastern elite holds his decent middle-American membership, and it can

Liberals will be exasperated, at best, by Reed's rather smarmy claim that his movement is in the tradition of the

Nice of him to say so; this sort of contrition and reasonableness (except, of course, with respect to "baby killers" and "sodomites") pervades "Active Faith," and Reed ends up trying a bit too hard to signal us that he desires a movement that is firm in its beliefs but tolerant and humble in its actions. Yet somehow, when it comes to the push and pull of political warfare, the Christian Coalition seems anything but contrite, tolerant or humble. Reed would probably call this a *perception/reality problem*, but one can't help suspecting it runs much deeper than that. The Lord's work is, apparently, far from finished. ■



Concert

Wednesday 19 June, 1996- 8:00 p.m.
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Tickets available at:

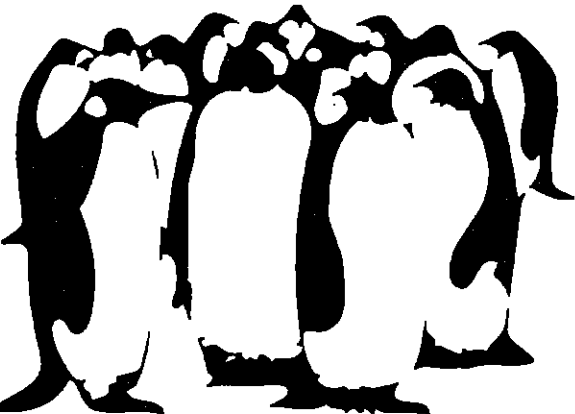
- Ahlahlia Abela Superstore, tel. 688481
- Alisar Flowers, tel. 827695
- Babiche, tel. 661322
- Caffé Moka, tel. 856285
- Characters, tel. 07-927106
- Freddy for Music, tel. 692696
- Music Box, tel. 815745
- Romero, tel. 644227
- National Music Conservatory, tel 687620

Ticket price: JD 5

Tickets available at:

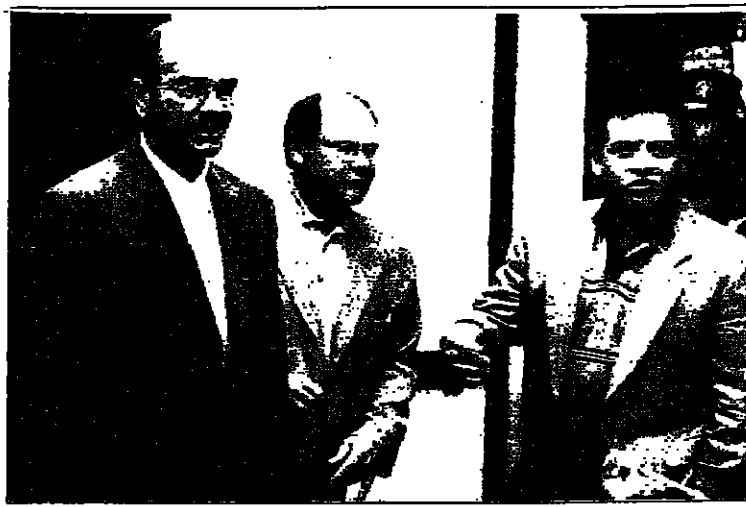
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- Freddy for Music, tel. 692696
- Music Box, tel. 815745
- Romero, tel. 642227
- National Music Conservatory, tel. 687670

AROUND TOWN



Star Trekers in Jordan

● HRH Princess Abdallah with the Star Trek Voyager actors Robert Picardo (left) and Ethan Phillips (Hologram doctor and Neelix respectively). Prince Abdallah is an enthusiastic treky and appeared in one of the episodes. The actors are in Jordan upon the personal invitation of the Prince.



Ali Tal

A historian and novelist with a poetic precision

By Eyad Ammari
Special to The Star

Rarely one finds a novelist who can portray the characters with such honesty. Ali Tal, born in 1945 in Irbid, is a writer with a historical perspective that forgives the wrong-doers and pleads to the victims.

On *The Walls of My Being* (Karnak House, London, 1995) is Tal's first novel in which he presents a true story of two lovers that eloped from their own clans, in 1900.

Tal says women are treated unfairly in the tribal system. With poetic style, he leads the reader into a historical panorama, from the ancient Fertile Crescent up to the Ottoman empire, that led to the institution of the clan system. "I consider myself poetic," Tal told *The Star*. "You have to exaggerate. If you don't offend, you don't succeed. Otherwise, people won't remember. There's no point in being polite when saying the truth, you have to be bold," he added.

Tal's grasping style is an act of art that depicts the victim and the murderer. The latter is no better than the former because he does not know any better. The murderer is ugly by his lack of knowledge.

Tal stimulates the emotions of the reader by carefully and accurately deciphering the internal state of every character. The story is not discom-



nected and events don't jump from one to the other. It's more like a tour in the daily life of two clans that had a disagreement and took their revenge out on their women, young and old.

Because the two lovers eloped, the disagreement between the two clans turns into a war. A young cousin of the woman she helped to elope, she gets slaughtered by her father for helping her cousin. The father attempts to cleanse the clan's honor by killing her with the help of his son. The brother refuses to help and watches. He loses his sanity and his life.

The struggle of the two lovers ends with their return. The young man becomes a tribal leader. The woman, however, who had already displayed courage, wisdom and utility, becomes again a neglected "nothing" in the house of her

husband. Tal elaborated on the historical events that occurred during the time of the story such as the Ottoman war against Russia. He explains the sorrows of Arab villagers under the Levant of the empire that lasted six centuries. He acknowledges the fact that history mandated on the Arabs a strategy of "divide and rule." He also examines the history of the Arabs from the period from atheism to the time of the story. He does that to ask the question of "what caused the status of women to deteriorate and make them suffer the wrath of ignorance." Tal succeeds in carrying over the image, that of simple brutality, in his book.

Tal can be described as a feminist, but not a radical one. He sees that women in the clan system are nothing, not even marginal. He says that no religion in the Middle East asks for such treatment of women. "A woman is bound and owned by her family till she is by her husband. She gets beaten up and humiliated everyday." Through his book, Tal wants to expose this. He argues that the decadence of society starts with the decadence in the status of women. A society is built upon the mother because a family is built on her, he says. Since the family is the cornerstone of any society, then a humiliated woman will lead to deterioration in society, he adds.

His upcoming book, *Sheikh of Love* (Minerva Press, London), centralized about the memorial in Irbid that holds the name of Sheikh Khalil, questions "how love had fallen from a worshipped to a sinful act in the past 50 years or so in Irbid, and amongst Arabs in general."

Tal uses and plays on mythology and folklore, tying the past with the present. His stories are true and he uses them as a base. "We don't know much about our history before religion. For a long time people mourned the disappearance of Tamuz [the day of the sun-solstice]—not anymore. Religion didn't want to bury history, it only wanted to enlighten people about God and his teachings."

Afkar Promoseven wins prestigious international award

AFKAR PROMOSEVEN, the leading advertising agency in the Middle East, has won the coveted International Grand Prix "Leader in Prestige and Quality" award. The Spanish award is presented annually to companies from around the world who have consistently demonstrated exceptional growth, prestige and outstanding quality in their field.



In 1996, companies from Brazil, Estonia, Bulgaria, Greece, Latvia, Mexico, Malaysia, Poland and Spain as well as seven leading companies from Saudi Arabia were nominated for the award, which was organized by Actualidad, the Spanish magazine of Tourism, Commerce and Industry.

Mr Francisco Abello, president of the award committee, said "The competition for the award was intense. However, after careful deliberations, Fortune Promoseven were chosen as the outstanding international company of 1996 having achieved a phenomenal growth of 529% while maintaining the highest quality standards. They are the first advertising agency to win the award. We congratulate them."

Mr Fadi Salameh, executive vice-President of Afkar Promoseven said, "We are delighted to have won this award. There are two outstanding reasons for our continuing success. First, PF7 has a marketing as well as advertising capability. We provide strategic marketing/advertising support for our clients. Second this achievement is firmly rooted in the hard work, dedication and talent of the Fortune Promoseven staff throughout the Middle East. We are proud of them."

A British car set to break sound barrier in Jafer



A ONE-seat British car exceeding the sound of speed will be driven in Jordan's desert in Al Jafer. The Trust SSC-branded car is expected to break the sound barrier next July. The show will undoubtedly attract many car racing enthusiasts.

A press conference was held last Saturday at the Forte Grand to describe this unique experience to happen in Jordan for the first time. The conference was attended by the British Ambassador in Amman Mr Richard Hinchcliffe, Mr Ammar Kanan, general manager of the Forte Grand, Hassan Ala Al Din, Head of car activities committee in Jordan and Mr Andre Nobel, brother of Richard Nobel who is the holder of the current speed record on land roads which reached 1019.44 km per hour.

Mr Nobel said that breaking the sound barrier on land is totally different from air. He added that there is an American team which will carry out the same adventure in September but the English team will do its best to keep the new records for itself. "The British airforce supported the experiment and provided us with jet engines." The driver will be one of the British airforce pilots, he said. Mr Nobel said the car will drive 16 km and exercises will start at 400 km speed in mid-July.

Hotel InterContinental Jordan to launch new summer food and beverage promotion

Hotel InterContinental Jordan, one of 16 InterContinental Hotels and Resorts in the Middle East, has commenced its Summer Food & Beverage (F&B) promotion which will run until 11 September. The promotion, which is the first to be initiated for the Company's entire Middle East and Africa portfolio of hotels, will offer guests and Jordanian residents who choose to visit any of the hotel F&B outlets, the opportunity to enter two draws that could win them an all-inclusive holiday for two within the Africa and Middle East region.

"In celebration of the 50th anniversary year of InterContinental Hotels and Resorts, guests at any of the F&B outlets within our hotel will be given one couple for every JD 17 (\$25) that is spent on the value of the total bill including service and tax," said Ramzi Mashini, Food & Beverage Manager.

"The more entry coupons guests gather, the more the opportunity to win." The prize will be in the form of a holiday package for two people to any destination of their choice within the Africa and Middle East region. It will include two return air tickets from the winners' home country to the destination of their choice and four nights accommodation at InterContinental Hotel in a double room inclusive of breakfast and transportation.

Mashini said, "To support the scheme, we have initiated a major promotional campaign including a wide range of point of sale material including the placement of entry boxes to deposit the coupons all over our hotel, as well as posters and brochures to give more information in all the F&B outlets, the front desk and in guest rooms."

The Summer Food and Beverage promotion will be running in the 16 properties. InterContinental currently manages in the Middle East Abha, Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, two hotels in Amman, Bahrain, Cairo, Dubai, Hurghada, Jeddah, Makkah, two in Muscat, Petra, Riyadh, and Taif as well as 12 hotels in Africa including Nairobi, Lusaka, Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban.

Draws for the two winners will further reflect the Company's 50th anniversary year, being held after the first 50 days of the promotion, on 23rd July and after the second 50 days, on 11th September, in Abu Dhabi, Jeddah and Cairo.

InterContinental Hotels and Resorts is a pioneer and visionary company from its reception in Latin America in the 1940s and Eastern block development in the 1960s, to its commitment to the environment in the 1990s. The company has historically strived for excellence and achieved success in all aspects of its properties, and destinations.

The company began an aggressive expansion campaign into the Middle East, with the opening of the Phoenix InterContinental in Beirut in 1961. Today, InterContinental's commitment to the Middle East is unrivaled among major hotel chains, with representation in 18 cities, and plans for expansion in many more. InterContinental Hotels and Resorts is owned by the Satison Group of Japan and is represented worldwide via corporate offices in Amsterdam, Cairo, Hong Kong, London, Miami and New York. The company's portfolio includes more than 180 hotels in 67 countries under its first-class InterContinental Hotels and Resorts and mid-market Forum Hotels brand and in its Global Partner Hotels & Resorts Division.

Millennium wheel to celebrate the turn of the century

British Airways is donating the start-up capital for a giant fairground ride to be built on the banks of the River Thames running through central London.

The "Millennium Wheel"—a giant Ferris wheel—is under construction on the bank opposite another London highlight—the bell tower Big Ben. The Millennium Wheel is expected to draw two million visitors each year, both locals and visiting tourists.

Almost 100 meters high, the Millennium Wheel is only one of a series of activities planned by British Airways to celebrate the turn of the century but it is expected to be completed early and to open in 1998. Rotating at one quarter of the speed of an average walking pace, the Millennium wheel will offer views as far as 50 km away on a clear day.

Chief Executive of the world's favourite airline, Bob Ayling, said the Millennium wheel received funding as it fell into British Airways' policy to promote the millennium in a lively way: "The Millennium Wheel seemed the most imaginative way to do this. It is bold, exciting and exemplifies British design," he said.

"It will attract more visitors to London which is good news for British Airways as the country's biggest inbound tour operator. And it will bring fun and excitement to the mil-



lions who will ride on it," he added.

British Airways will put up the first \$900,000 of the estimated \$14 million expected total cost and has formed a joint venture with the project's originators, architects Julia Barfield and David Marks, to fund and run it. The remaining cash will be raised by The Millennium Wheel Company and no public funding will be required.

The Millennium Wheel itself will be suspended from a steel triangle

with its foundations in London clay. It is being constructed to meet the highest standards of reliability in all weathers, to be as environmentally friendly as possible and to give the best views of Britain's capital.

For the first five years, the River Thames will be Millennium Wheel's home. After this, it will be taken down and moved to a permanent site elsewhere in Britain. Each of the 60 glass capsules inside, which passengers will

journey, will be attached to the outside of the wheel giving the best possible view. Passengers will be able to listen to a commentary detailing notable sites in a choice of languages.

Tickets are expected to be priced at around \$7.5 and access for the disabled has been included in plans.

More than half of the energy required to turn the Millennium Wheel come from Thames tidal power, generated through a series of mini turbines situated in the river. The passenger capsules will feature built in solar cells to power their ventilation, heating, lighting and communication systems.

Half the height of the Eiffel Tower, in Paris, the Millennium Wheel will rank as the fourth highest building in London after the Canary Wharf Tower, the Natwest bank building and the British Telecom Tower.

David Marks and Julia Barfield have had previous experience designing striking buildings in Britain and other parts of Europe. Founded in 1987—the year British Airways was privatized—their company was responsible for a prize winning, pioneering water sports facility on Merseyside in northern England and an extension to Gatwick Airport's north terminal. British Airways base at the airport.

"We are delighted to collaborate with the World's favourite Airline in a joint venture to create the world's favourite wheel. British Airways has unrivalled experience and marketing skills into which we can now tap to bring reality a dream which has already excited the public's imagination," they commented.

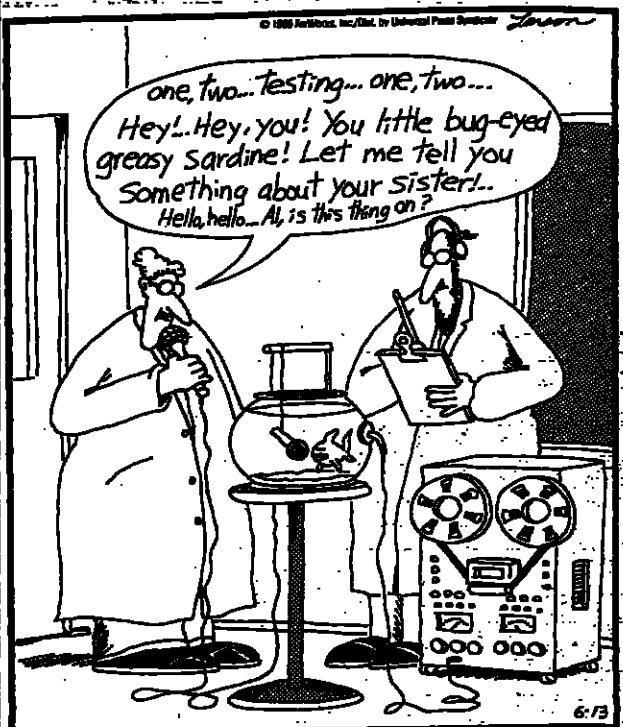
The engineering know-how behind the Millennium Wheel has been provided by Ove Arup & Partners which numbers 4,000 consulting engineers working around the globe. The company has ensured the Millennium Wheel represents British engineering at its best.

The London suburb of Lambeth is expected to benefit from the creation of the Millennium Wheel and the initial British Airways donation. The Millennium Wheel will create 40 jobs and will contribute significantly to the attraction of first time overseas visitors to the area for the first time.

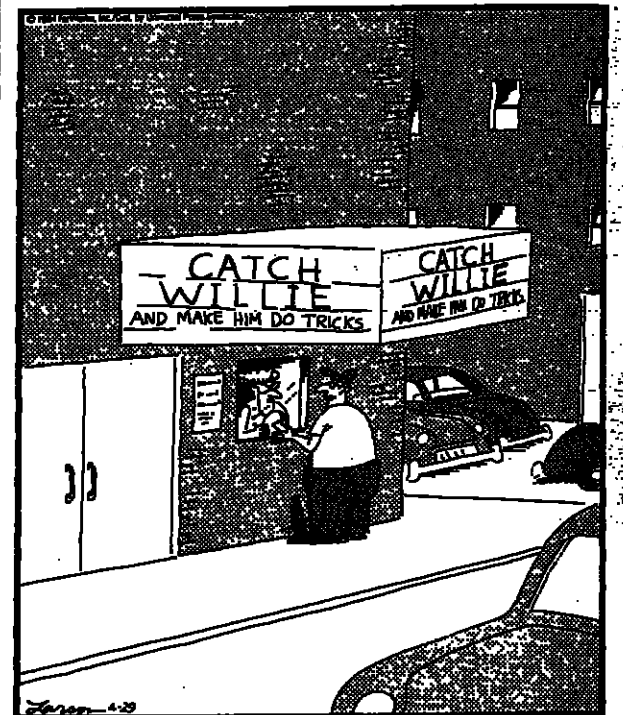
Local residents will be glad to know noise pollution was a factor taken in mind when the Millennium Wheel was designed and any noise and wind created by its turning have been minimized. No interference to local radio and TV broadcasts will be caused by the Millennium Wheel except for shows about its construction and the high numbers of visitors it is sure to attract! ■

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



Testing whether fish have feelings.



"Well, Vern, looks like that buffalo paper you set out this morning is doing the trick."



"Aw, c'mon, you guys—the cat's away and everyone's so dead serious."

AGENDA	
Exhibitions	■ The works of Noelle Shawa, at Concept for Consultancy Quarters, continues till 30 June
■ An exhibition titled <i>Heureux Dimanche</i> , at The French Cultural Center, starts on 1 July. It continues till 20 July	■ The works of Ahmad Nawash, at the Jordan Plastic Art Association, continues till 29 June
■ Contemporary Arab Artists, at Darat al Funun, continues till 30 June	
■ The works of Rafiq Majzoub, at The French Cultural Center, ends today Thursday 27 June	
■ Hand-made carpets by Mas'ad Basha, at Alia Art Gallery, ends today Thursday 27 June	
Films	■ Jazz Singer, at American Center, Sunday 30 June at 5 pm
■ <i>Blanc</i> , at The French Cultural Center, Monday at 8pm	
■ <i>Rouge</i> , at The French Cultural Center, Monday at 10 pm	

27 JUNE 1996
SIDE
ARY LARSON
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you little bug-eyed
if me tell you
your sister!
's thing on?
I have feelings
CATCH
WILLIE
NO ONE IN THE
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JUNE 1996

A special section offering
fresh perspectives on
global issues prepared for

The Star

THE WORLD PAPER

PRINTED IN FIVE LANGUAGES
ON FIVE CONTINENTS



Distrustful of those they elect, voters are creating a political vacuum

Power flowing again to the unelected

Lawyers. Judges. Novelists. Lobbyists. Academics. Journalists. With little or no public mandate, these "unelected powerhouses" shape much of the public policy in democratic societies. As disenchantment with politicians grows around the world, these unelected powerhouses are facing a choice: take this opportunity to enlarge their interests or shoulder more responsibility for the good of their societies

By Hodding Carter

IT IS A CLICHÉ that the Constitution of the United States is a "living document," and in many ways it is, infinitely adaptable and perpetually open to amendment. But it has also been forever silent on some of the nation's most significant political realities, from the presence of factions and parties at the moment of its adoption to the overwhelming power of pressure groups and special interests today.

In the penumbra of that silence, much of the real business of American governance in the last decade of the 20th century has been facilitated, stymied and transformed. Most particularly, organized self-interest has become the King Kong of contemporary American political life—though like that movie monster, it is better at destroying than it is at creating.

REPORTING
FROM
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Of course, aspects of this are not precisely new. "The Lobby" has been central to the way government actually works for well over a century. At the height of the industrial revolution's gilded age, big business bought legislators as if they were so many sacks of potatoes. What is new is the vacuum in which such power works today, thanks to the disintegration of party loyalty and party discipline over the past three decades.

There have been two related results of that disintegration. The first is that politicians behave more like freelancers than members of a coherent whole. Each tries to be complete into himself, raising money, waging campaigns and voting according to what are seen as the peculiar necessities of his own situation. The most staggering necessity is money-raising, thanks to the booming cost of election campaigns at every level. That gives those who can supply money in large quantities an outside say about issues which affect their interests. Money talks and the officeholding freelancers must listen.

The second result of the descent into unanchored politics is that individual voters are atomized. Voting "for the man and not the party," their choices are often mutually contradictory if not downright incoherent. It has become commonplace for voters to cast their ballot simultaneously for Democratic congressional candidates and Republican presidential candidates, or vice versa. The result for much of the second half of the century has been divided government, which is another way of saying unresponsive or downright irresponsible government. Another inevitable result has been that the parties are less capable of speaking for the interests of a cohesive bloc of voters whose collective concerns are broader and deeper than their individual ones.

No such incoherence plagues those whose interests are specific, focused and organized. Their name is legion and their influence is awesome. Rather than being atomized, their members perceive themselves correctly to be members of smoothly functioning teams whose counsel is heeded, whether or not it is sought. No longer operating in the shadows, they sit openly at the legislative table and in party councils, demanding that their well-financed positions be respected.

Earlier this spring, *Time* magazine listed some of the most influential of what it labeled the "New Party Bosses." As the article's subhead put it, "Who really controls politics? Meet the power brokers who will help decide this year's contest." They ranged from the newly reenergized labor federation, the AFL-CIO with its 13 million members and US\$35 million political war chest, to the three-million member National Rifle Association and its potent

opposition to any form of gun control.

Conservative Christians and energized liberal women, tobacco companies and small business organizations: All have urgent demands to make and the money to make their demands felt.

To repeat, the presence of such unelected powerhouses is not a unique modern phenomenon. But as *The System*, a new book by veteran Washington Post reporters David Broder and Haynes Johnson, spells out in fact-packed detail, they "have so far outgrown the conceptions and definitions of past interest-group operations that it is necessary to re-think the way the system works."

What is different?

First, they are larger and much richer than ever before. Second, there are so many more of them, their proliferation sparked by, and matching, the growth of the federal government's reach and size over the past 60 years. Landscape gardeners and elite institutions of higher learning share little else, but they both have national organizations and well-paid Washington lobbyists whose business is to influence legislation and administration.

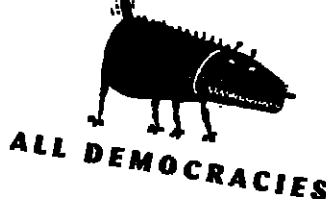
Finally, they have become far more professional. They deploy their forces across battlefields ranging from the World Wide Web to local television. They, like the Clinton White House, are in perpetual campaign mode, deluging congressional offices with mail, turning out powerful television spots and deploying cash to friendly candidates and officeholders. *The Source* notes that in the watershed 1994 congressional election, in which Republicans seized control of the House of Representatives for the first time in over 40 years, "the Christian Coalition cited figures showing that 44 of the winning Republican freshmen enjoyed the strong support of 'pro-family, pro-life groups.'"

The payoff was direct and overt. Quoting another reporter's work, Broder and Johnson wrote: "To an extent unusual even for parasitic Washington, the House GOP leadership has attached its fortunes to private lobbyists and is relying on their far-flung influence to pass its agenda."

A question remains about the long-term effectiveness of these "unelected and unaccountable" crypto political parties. They are very good at blocking what they do not want, as in defeating President Clinton's monumental health

► POWER FLOWING PAGE 2

WORLDWIDE PRIMARY UNELECTED POWERHOUSES



OFFICIAL BALLOT

For top dog of
the Global
Village

See instructions for
voting on next panel

To vote, mark a CROSS ☒ on the line to the right of the name

Due to the special nature of these elections, the following rules apply:
• Ballots can be submitted by mail, the Internet, or via automatic bank teller machines
• Ballots will be counted by lottery
• Winners may remain anonymous

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION (USA)	
HOUSE OF LORDS (UK)	
MARIO VARGAS LLOSA (Peru)	
POPE JOHN PAUL II (at large)	
JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH (USA)	
RUPERT MURDOCH (at large)	
THE MAFIA (Italy)	

Latin American authors garner political royalties for their work

Writing themselves a ticket to the presidential palace

By Sergio Sarmiento

WHEN A SERIES of political figures from the left and center of Mexico's political spectrum decided earlier this year to organize a series of conferences to present their ideas to society—and perhaps lay the foundations for a new political party—they invited Carlos Fuentes, a novelist, to be the first speaker.

In other parts of the world this might have been a surprising choice. Novelists, after all, create fiction—hardly the kind of people one would expect to be concerned with political realities.



Mario Vargas Llosa: politics in his pen

But writers have often been at the center of politics in Mexico and the rest of Latin America.

There are many unelected powers in Latin America that exercise tremendous political influence, including the Catholic Church and trade unions. But none are more fascinating than writers. Unlike other powers, the writers often

do not share the same ideas or political vision, and they have a flamboyance and ability to express themselves not found in traditional politicians. But there is no doubt that they act as political advocates.

Politics is such an important part of Mexico's literary life today that writer and poet Octavio Paz, who won the 1989 Nobel Prize for literature, recently decided to cancel the public presentation of the latest two volumes of his complete works. These two volumes include his political essays. According to executives from the publishing house, Paz decided that Mexico's current political state—perhaps the most troubled in decades—made it inappropriate to present his essays.

Paz's essays are elegant, timeless pieces that have appeared over several decades; there is little in them that can be deemed explosive. But the attention paid to writers in Mexico is such that Paz was probably right in assuming that the public presentation of the two volumes would have major political implications.

Writers are equally influential in other Latin American countries. Since the 1930s, writers such as Jorge Amado have been the backbone of progressive causes in Brazil, whose former president Jose Sarney often appeared proud of his minor accomplishments as a writer than his record in office. Chile's Pablo Neruda, who died shortly after the military coup that deposed socialist president Salvador Allende in 1973, was considered by many to be his country's social conscience.

Other Latin American writers who have occupied a presidential mansion

include Argentina's Domingo Faustino Sarmiento, Venezuela's Romulo Gallegos and Guatemala's Miguel Angel Asturias. Among those siding with the opposition is Colombian-born Gabriel Garcia Marquez, who has consistently defended leftist causes in his native land and in Mexico.

Writers have such a high political profile in Latin America that efforts by any of them to avoid politics attract a host of questioning looks. Jorge Luis Borges, for instance, was often criticized because he did not take a stand against Argentina's military rulers in the 1970s and preferred to lead a reclusive life among the books of Argentina's National Library, which he headed for many years.

Political differences do not prevent Latin American writers from acting as efficient lobbies when their own special interests are threatened. In 1989, a traditional exemption for writers was eliminated from Mexico's tax code. Writers of all stripes joined forces and eventually compelled the government to reinstate the exemption, which makes any income derived from writing tax-free.

That Fuentes and his peers are not more powerful is attributed by many to the fact that they, like writers all over the world, tend to be jealous of one another.

Maybe this is fortunate, this tendency to quarrel, even when they are in agreement on basic principles. Otherwise Latin America might be ruled today by writers, and there is no indication that they are better equipped for ruling countries than traditional politicians. @

SERGIO SARMIENTO, A SYNDICATED COLUMNIST BASED IN MEXICO CITY, IS A *WorldPaper* ASSOCIATE EDITOR FOR LATIN AMERICA.

Justice prevails?

Occult powers in Italy butt heads

By Gino Lorenzelli

ITALIANS HAVE DEALT with each and every political system for more than 2,000 years. During that time, unelected powerhouses have always been the rule rather than the exception.

Known within Italy as "occult powers," a steady stream of academics, soldiers, Mafia dons, pontiffs, businessmen, separatist movements and foreign countries—including the US—have left their mark on the country without any public mandate to do so.

Since World War II, magistrates have established themselves as the strongest—and perhaps most rooted—unelected powerhouse. In recent years, much of their energy has been spent fending off criticisms about their lack of accountability while trying to force elected politicians to stop behaving as if they were occult powers.

Italian judges and prosecutors bear heavy responsibilities because the country's Constitution says that they are an "independent body." Lately they have decided to assert their independence from politicians—by sending them to prison. This is a sharp departure from the 1960s and 1970s, when the Italian judiciary uncritically supported the parliamentary majority and avoided investigating matters that could prove embarrassing to the government.

► OCCULT POWERS PAGE 2



Voters rebuff bishops

Poles seek a Catholic democracy

By Daniel Passent

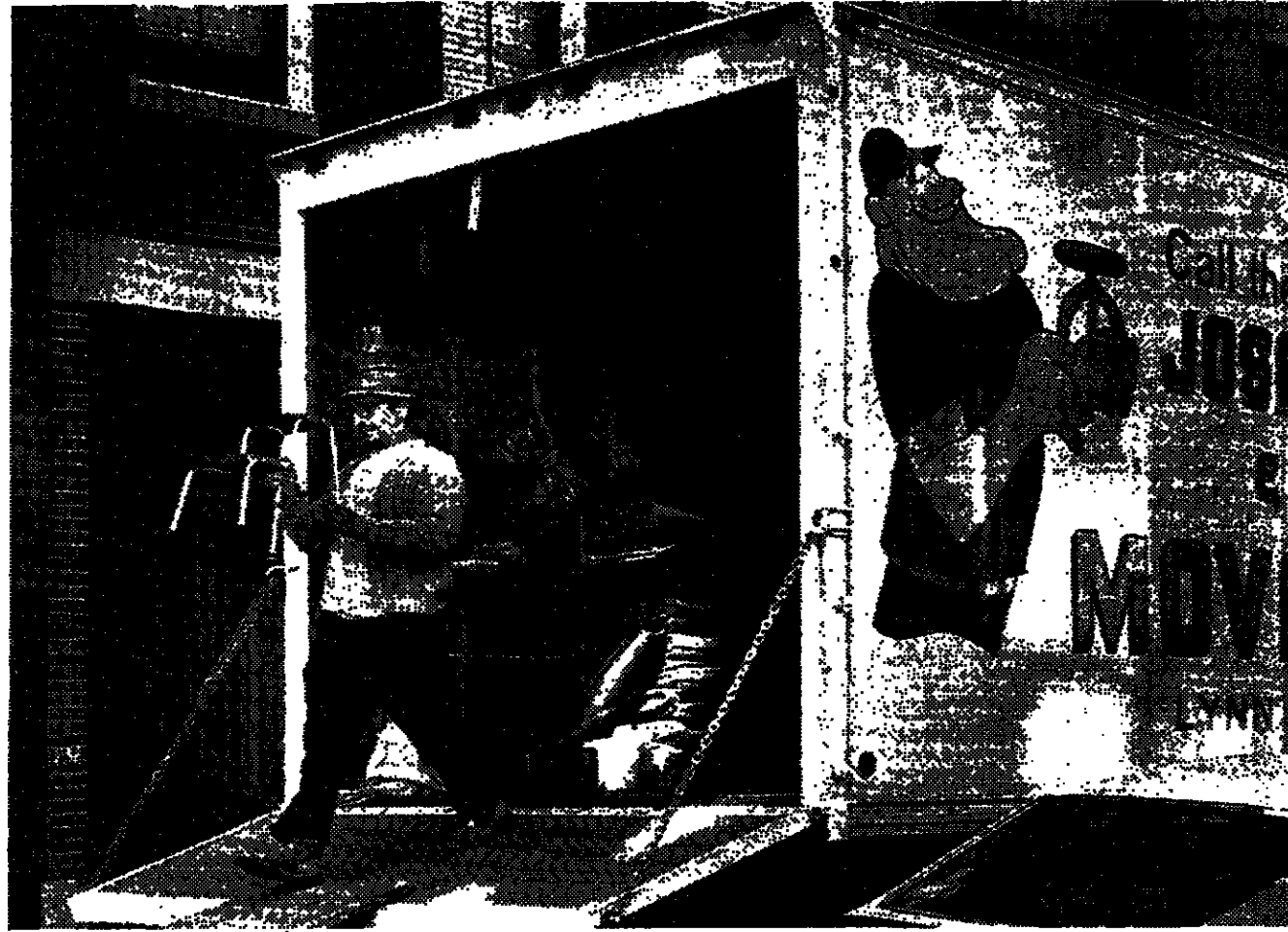
FOR OVER 1,000 years the Catholic Church has been Poland's dominant unelected powerhouse. As it emerges from the shadows cast by four decades of atheistic communism, the Church is searching for its place in a society it wants to dominate in as many areas of public life as possible.

By standing up to communism, the Catholic Church enjoyed a spiritual triumph that gave it more authority than ever. Today, it claims the allegiance of 90 percent of all Poles. But it is an institution whose authority is based on opposition, first to the Nazis and then to the communists, and it has little experience in dealing with the secular forces unleashed by markets and ballot boxes.

This oppositional tendency surfaced during the elections in 1993 and 1995, when the Church made it very clear that Catholics had a moral responsibility to vote for people who would guarantee the "Christian continuity" of Poland—in other words, do not vote for anybody with a communist past. "Let Catholics vote for a Catholic, Jews for a Jew, communists for a communist," said one bishop.

In both cases, it resulted in a rebuff by the voters, who opted in last year's presidential election for the reformed communist Aleksander Kwasniewski over the good Catholic Lech Walesa, whose leadership of the Solidarity trade union played a major role in breaking communism's grip on Poland.

At stake are a number of key pieces of social policy that, if they go against the Catholic Church, could erode its



Moving in on democracy: as voters vent their frustrations on elected officials, unelected groups are gaining power

position. Ironically, in the current climate of freedom the Church could suffer even more if it is successful in banning abortion, preventing a separation of church and state, securing religious education in the public school system and imposing a patriarchal view of the family on women.

Since 1989, the Catholic Church has made solid strides towards its vision of the ideal Polish society; an ideal that prompted Nobel Prize-winning poet Czesław Miłosz to state that,

"In a country where the moral matters are the subject of public votes, and in which the process of educating children depends on the balance of power within the governing coalition, the church has, and should have, a political interest"

"the people in Poland have begun to fear the priests." Religious instruction has returned to the schools, achieved by an executive order from the Minister of Education rather than a parliamentary debate. The parliament has, however, passed laws requiring the media to respect Christian values and sharply limiting access to abortion. It is now Polish women who are forced to engage in "abortion tourism" to neighboring countries.

In addition to spiritual gains, the Catholic Church has benefited materially in post-communist Poland. It has been reclaiming confiscated properties at a much faster rate than other groups with valid claims. It has opened several radio stations while private investors compete for scarce frequencies. Tax and custom privileges have also been granted—and abused. Some bishops have issued orders restricting the import of cars by local priests.

This triumphal march has caused a significant backlash in public opinion. Its approval rating fell from 87 percent in 1989 to 57 percent in 1995. More than half the population think that its involvement in politics is excessive. An institution which enjoyed the support of the masses during the communist era suddenly feels abandoned and betrayed, and it is having second thoughts about democracy itself. The Church blocked a proposed referendum on abortion, saying that ethical questions cannot be the subject of public votes.

The question of the Catholic Church's role in public life is the subject of numerous, vigorous polemics. "He who says that the church should only deal with private matters preaches—consciously or not—the program for the destruction of Christianity," says Jarosław Gowin, a journalist for the Catholic weekly *Tygodnik Powszechny*. Another writer, Father Krzysztof Paczos, states that, "In a country where the moral matters are the subject of public votes, and in which the process of educating children depends on the balance of power within the governing coalition, the church has, and should have, a political interest."

Among those with a different view is the well-known Catholic priest and writer Adam Boniecki, who warns that, "the Church can regain control of everything—property, the media, even political parties—yet at the same time lose the biggest gain of the past: credibility."

Are the fears that Poland is on a pilgrimage toward theocracy justified. The answer is yes, but it can never reach that destination. Polish Catho-

cism is not fundamentalist, dogmatic or belligerent; it is more superficial, ritual and ceremonial. Over half of Poland's Catholics approve of pre-marital sex, disapprove of the Church's anti-abortion stance and believe attending church is not a prerequisite for being a good Catholic.

This selective belief and the lack of a militant popular base means that there is no support for a religious state. What appears to be taking shape is a Catholic

democracy, a country governed by opportunistic politicians who grant concessions to the Church—which wants influence rather than power—to secure themselves peace of mind. Kwasniewski, who has been criticized for being too "soft" on the Church, believes that its ability to participate directly in politics is limited. "There is no chance that any church could, at the end of the 20th century, build a religious state in a democratic country," he said recently.

As it stands, the governing, post-communist politicians can't afford a struggle with the Church because of their past. The conservative opposition is too weak to succeed without the Church's blessing. Thus the Catholic Church has a privileged position that it is trying to consolidate and expand before its wings are clipped by Western values and secular democracy. □

DANIEL PASSENT, A FORMER EDITOR OF *The World Paper*, IS A COLUMNIST AND EDITOR FOR THE WARSAW-BASED NEWS-MAGAZINE *Polityka*.

POWER FLOWING

Continued from page 1

care reform package two years ago. But as the new Republican majority has discovered, they are less capable of sustaining a majority in favor of something. The plummeting popularity of the once triumphant GOP testifies both to the fickleness of our disenchanted, atomized public and to the countervailing effectiveness of organized pressure groups who refuse to accept the Republicans' "Contract With America."

No one thinks that this particular King Kong is going to be put back in its cage anytime soon, however. The parties' weakness grows, rather than diminishes. The cost of political campaigns mounts at a geometric pace. The tribalization of the electorate shows no signs of abating, with each warring subdivision engaged in a political arms race with all the others.

In short, the United States has arrived at exactly the point that the Constitution's chief sponsors most feared. Many voices speak for faction; few speak for the national interest. Things are going to have to get much worse before they get better. □

HODDING CARTER, A FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE IN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, IS A *World Paper* ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

OCCULT POWERS

Continued from page 1

trates could not break—without being blamed for judicial interference—the "rubber wall" erected by authorities in Italy, Europe and the United States. Only recently did US President Bill Clinton give permission to decode the radar registrations that may help find the truth.

Courageous prosecutors defying official pressure and exposing government lying were a major factor in this reversal. The other was the end of the Cold War, which removed the communist threat that served as the rationale for much of Italy's murky politics.

During the Cold War years the most popular Italian party, the Christian Democrats, was appointed by American administrations as the guardian of Italy, their job being to prevent the toughest European communist organization, the Italian Communist Party, from taking power—by any means necessary.

When the Berlin Wall fell, this awkward but durable system collapsed with it, rocking the Italian political establishment all the way to its foundations. According to Stefano Rodotà, professor of civil law at the University of Rome and former vice-president of the Chamber of Deputies, "Some Italian judges unraveled the morbid threads that held together politics, business and international powers. They detected and punished a political system that used corruption as an instrument of ruling, making and applying laws. A system, it should be remembered, that was going on since the end of World War II."

Milan, not Rome, has been the natural scenario of this revolution. Besides being the economic and financial capital of the country, Milan was, and still is, the center of corruption trials, where magistrates pursue cases of bribery, tax evasion and even plans to subvert the government. Prosecutors have had to fight not only corrupt politicians, but also their self-serving laws. Until 1992, Italy had a law on the books that made a member of Parliament virtually immune from imprisonment.

When sentences began to hammer deputies, senators and their hidden lobbies, a war was declared. A war that recently pitted the country's most important court houses, Rome and Milan, against one another. Milan's chief prosecutor, Saverio Borrelli, quoting an investigation report on his Roman colleagues, blamed Rome's judges of being "environmentally conditioned" by the capital's corrupted climate. His accusations grew in a fertile soil.

This struggle of the elected and unelected has had some unintended consequences. It has given some hidden powers a chance to come up for air, including a group that wants to split the peninsula into two states. The Northern League, which was part of the former coalition government held by the media mogul Silvio Berlusconi, accuses Rome and southern Italy of being inefficient and corrupt.

The South, which the Northern League would like to see as an independent country, is home to the most

Seven centuries without an election

Britain's House of Lords born—or appointed—to the task of governing

When the British refer to their legislature fondly as "the mother of all parliaments," they tend to overlook the fact that the institution first emerged 700 years ago as a means of protecting the aristocracy against predatory monarchs. Little of its time and energy was spent looking after the interests of the downtrodden citizenry. Democracy as we understand the term today does not have the historical pedigree we like to invest it with.

So the fact that centuries later the noble interest retains a unique power in the British system of government, with its own House of Lords, has as much to do with primogeniture as the tradition of inherited privilege that provides the bulk of members of this elevated gathering. Indeed, it was not until the late 19th century that prime ministers began routinely to sit in the elected House of Commons rather than the hereditary Lords.

But there are other reasons, too, for the survival of this apparently anachronistic Upper Chamber. One is that, for all the changes designed to place power in the hands of the people, we have never been able to devise a credible alternative. Like the popular revolutionaries who executed King Charles I in 1649 and could think of replacing him only by a neo-monarchical style of government, Britain continues to honor its elite with the feudal titles of earl and marquess, viscount and baron. We even create new titles, though usually only for a lifetime, for those we think merit them.

Secondly, the vague and unwritten nature of the British constitution holds that without a monarch no actual state exists. Queen Elizabeth II embodies in her person the legitimacy of government, but law and custom bar her from the House of Commons. Her presence in Parliament, and the symbol of statehood that implies, depends therefore on the House of Lords.

All this presents problems for those, such as the anti-privilege Labour Party, who would like to abolish the House of Lords. The idea of having an elected second chamber holds little appeal for the British, who tend to show a cynical lack of interest in voting. The other option, of appointing members, is equally unattractive on the ground that those chosen would be there only because of loyalty to a particular party and thus their judgment would be suspect.

At the same time, the public retains a certain affection for the eccentric collection of unpaid peers of the realm—nearly 800 of them out of just over 1,000 are there solely because of their birth—whose function it is to scrutinize the government's proposed legislation. With politics now so firmly fixed on party lines, people say, the Lords (of whom more than a quarter have no party affiliation) can at least bring unbiased common sense to bear.

These days the Lords have lost the power they once had to throw out legislation proposed by the Commons. The best they can do is delay it or encourage amendment—and then only if the financing of the state is not at issue. So they are not much of a threat to the democratic process and, in fact, may help it by drawing the government's attention to defects in proposed laws.

That is why even if the Labour Party wins the upcoming general election we will not be holding our breath for its promised assault on the House of Lords. After all, the peers were there first, and nowhere is the weight of history more evident than in the British parliamentary system.

—By David Sinclair in London

feared unelected power ever—the Mafia. Some political leaders like Giulio Andreotti, seven times prime minister, are still under investigation for allegedly masterminding the mafiosi, rather than trying to quell them. These investigations are part of another war being waged by the judiciary, which was stung into action when the Mafia began to raise its voice and to kill magistrates in addition to businessmen and politicians.

The judges reacted. Some banks, their chief executive officers awakening as if from a dream, suddenly realized

that money laundering was a common practice in southern and northern Italy, as well as throughout Europe. Italian banks, especially private ones, are another unelected power to be reckoned with.

When the dust settles from this struggle between elected and unelected powerhouses, the next step for Italy's young democracy will be overhauling the Italian Constitution. Professors, magistrates, priests, entrepreneurs all express enthusiasm for this task. Only the elected deputies and senators seem reluctant. □

GINO LORENZELLI, A FORMER CORRESPONDENT FOR THE ROME-BASED QUOTIDIANI ASSOCIATI NEWS AGENCY, IS INTERNING AT *The World Paper*.

HOPE

Somewhere in Africa, there is a rainforest that is not being cut, bulldozed or burned.

The evolution of its plant species continues unchecked, and its wildlife are not being hunted to extinction.

The name of this rainforest is Korup.

It is situated in the South West province of Cameroon, and it covers an area approximately equal in size to Greater London.

It is one of the oldest, most species-rich rainforests in the world. Over a quarter of Africa's primate species live there.

In a world full of black predictions about the future of our environment, Korup represents a beacon of achievement.

For without action, Korup would have all but disappeared in a mere 20 years.

That this action was taken wasn't an accident. It was a project set up by the Cameroon government and by WWF/World Wide Fund for Nature.

Their aim was simple: to protect the forest.

Actually achieving this was not so simple.

The scheme had to provide a sustainable livelihood for the people who lived in Korup that did not involve the destruction of the forest. Our solution was to establish two distinct areas of Korup. The first was a core conservation area, to be untouched by hunting and agriculture.

The second was an area of fertile land surrounding the core area on which the forest's inhabitants could live, farm and hunt. We call this the "buffer zone."

It was found that people were prepared to move there, provided that they could benefit from improved roads, health, education, better soils and water supplies (facilities lacking in the core area).

WWF has a permanent staff in Cameroon, but also commissions experts from around the world to

help with the development of the buffer zone's agriculture.

The Korup scheme attempts to achieve an effective compromise between conservation and economic reality.

Like anything that goes beyond idealism and utopianism, it has had its setbacks. Some of the inhabitants of the forest have turned the move to the buffer zone. A few of our new crop experiments have failed. It has been hard to control illegal logging.

These are the gaps that any pioneer work inevitably faces. It is easy to highlight the negatives. But what we are doing is a positive attempt to provide a blueprint for the saving of nature's richest legacy to the human race: the rainforest.

The Korup National Park proves it can be done.

And Korup is not the only reason we can look forward to a more optimistic future.

Terms of scientists from WWF work with local people to promote conservation and develop sustainable agriculture all over the world. The Korup scheme, along with similar projects in the Amazon basin, the Hutan province of China, and Sri Lanka are models for the work that we would like to promote in many other countries.

At WWF, we are as aware as anyone of the threat to the planet and to the survival of our children and grandchildren. It's just that we would rather be doing something, than simply making a noise about it. If you would like to become involved, write to the Membership Office, WWF International, CH-1196, Gland, Switzerland. Thank you.

WWF World Wide Fund for Nature

WWF is a non-profit organization. All funds raised are used for conservation.

WWF is a member of the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development.

WWF is a member of the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

WWF is a member of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

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The Star's GUIDE

Programs on JTV from 22-28 June

ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY

3:00—Moomin
3:30—Pumpkin Patch
4:00—Blue Heelers
4:40—Big Brother Jake
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Torkelsons
8:00—The Album Show
8:55—Prism
9:10—Miami Vice
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
11:10—Feature Film: *Blue Tornado*, starring Dirk Benedict and Patsy Kensit

Two airforce pilots are out on a flying mission when they are blinded by a dazzling ball of light.

SUNDAY

3:00—The Mask
3:30—Adventures on the Rainbow Poud
4:00—Mac and Mutley
4:30—The Paul McKenna show
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Varieties
7:45—Closing Ceremony (European Championship 96)
8:50—Short Documentary
9:10—Black's Magic
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Counterstrike
11:15—Short Story Cinema

MONDAY

3:00—Bonkers
3:30—Richie Rich
4:00—Play About
4:30—Gillette World Sport
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Milner Fenwick
8:00—Paul McKenna Show
8:30—Matlock
9:10—100 Years of Capitalism in Korea
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
11:15—Mancuso

TUESDAY

3:00—Iris, the Happy Professor
3:30—Tennis Wimbledon 96
7:00—Le Journal
7:30—News Headlines
8:00—Egypt (documentary)
8:30—Encounter
8:45—Varieties
9:10—Star Trek
10:00—News at Ten
10:30—Human Target
11:15—Hawai 5-0
11:45—My Two Wives

WEDNESDAY

2:30—Tennis Wimbledon 96
7:00—Le Journal
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Evening Shade
8:00—Super Star
8:30—chancer

Patsy Kensit in *Blue Tornado*, on Saturday at 11:10 pm

9:10—Hunter
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
11:15—Bugs

and Kathleen Nolan.
The film is adapted from a real story of a Georgian basketball player injured in a motorcycle accident.

12:00—Family Matters

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Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

Pour le 14 juillet,
le Star vous ouvre ses pages.
Un supplément spécial en français
sera réalisé à l'occasion de la fête
nationale de la France.
Une place spéciale est réservée aux
entreprises souhaitant profiter de cette op-
portunité pour faire de la publicité.
Pour tout renseignement,
contactez Olivier Bras au Star.
Tel: 645 380 ou 652 380. Fax: 648 298

Les Arabes lancent une sévère mise en garde à Israël

Les dirigeants arabes ont lancé à l'issue du sommet arabe qui se déroulait les 22 et 23 juin au Caire une sévère mise en garde à l'Etat d'Israël, le menaçant de remettre en cause le processus de normalisation s'il changeait les règles du jeu du processus de paix.

Toute transgression par Israël (...) des bases sur lesquelles a été édifié le processus de paix, toute renonciation aux engagements (...), ou toute tergiversation, provoquerait un revirement du processus de paix (...) contraignant tous les Etats arabes à reconsidérer les démarches entreprises à l'égard d'Israël dans le cadre du processus de paix, affirme la déclaration finale du premier sommet arabe organisé depuis six ans.

De son côté, le nouveau Premier ministre israélien Benjamin Netanyahu a lui rapidement rejeté certaines des résolutions adoptées par le sommet, estimant qu'elles étaient « incompatibles » avec le processus de paix.

Accusant les pays arabes de vouloir imposer des « ultimatums », les dirigeants israéliens se posent depuis en victimes. « Il n'y a aucune raison pour qu'on nous présente comme des coupables », a déclaré David Lévy, ministre israélien des affaires étrangères.

Benjamin Netanyahu a lui déclaré que le « processus de paix ne peut être tenu en otage par des conditions préétablies unilatérales qui constituent une menace pour Israël ».

SELON MOI

Le centre d'études stratégiques de Jordanie vient de réaliser une enquête auprès des Jordaniens sur la presse écrite. Cette étude révèle que le quotidien le plus lu dans le royaume est de loin *Al Ra'i* et que le journaliste le plus populaire est Tarek Masarweh.

Originaire de Madaba, Tarek Masarweh est connu de tous les Jordaniens et au-delà des frontières du royaume pour son pragmatisme et son amour inconditionnel pour sa patrie à qui il ne prévoit pas un avenir radieux sans l'appui de ses voisins arabes.

Il se trouve que Tarek n'a pas que des amis dans son propre pays et que depuis deux mois maintenant, la dernière page d'*Al Ra'i* est dépourvue de ses analyses judicieuses parce que ses critiques dérangeant. Maintes fois censuré, Tarek Masarweh ne peut plus écrire librement dans un pays qui prétend se singulariser des pays voisins par sa démocratie et sa liberté de presse.

Il n'est pourtant ni un traître, ni un anarchiste. Il a simplement le malheur d'aimer son pays et d'exprimer son sentiment selon lequel la Jordanie ne s'engage pas dans la bonne voie et que la raison ne guide pas ses décisions.

Royaliste dans l'âme, très impressionné par la culture du prince héritier, il est présent sur la scène publique depuis 35 ans grâce à son idole Wasfi Alal, qui n'était alors pas encore Premier ministre mais directeur de radio Amman. En 1964, il accompagnait déjà la première visite officielle du roi Hussein en France.

Loin d'être riche, il possède une maison modeste dans la banlieue d'Amman à un jet de pierre de la tombe de son ami Wasfi, lâchement assassiné au Caire en 1971. Il avoue franchement que sans la voiture offerte par le roi, il continuerait à faire la queue aux arrêts de taxi.

Ayant une grande connaissance des hommes qui nous gouvernent et de la politique intérieure depuis quatre décennies ainsi que des magouilles qui existent dans ce pays, il s'est vu offrir un poste de conseiller auprès du Premier ministre Zeid Ben Shaker. Une place qu'il a perdue 48 heures après la nomination du nouveau gouvernement en février, en même temps que les censures à son égard apparaissent.

Personnalité respectable dotée d'une culture et d'une mémoire enviables, il déteste les profiteurs, les corrompus et tous ceux qui cherchent à s'enrichir sur les ruines de la Jordanie. En appelant son fils aîné Ali, du nom de l'imam chiite, il a prouvé qu'il refusait, en tant que chrétien, de se réfugier derrière la religion pour faire oublier son appartenance.

Jordanien jusqu'à la moelle, il n'est pas de ceux qui masquent la fracture sociale que connaît le pays en brandissant l'arme du nationalisme primitif et de la ségrégation raciale. Ses amis palestiniens sont nombreux, mais il ne s'agit pas de ceux qui ont enfoncé l'honneur de la Palestine dans des coffre-forts en Suisse.

Abou Ali n'a jamais cessé de dire que nos ennemis se trouvent parmi nous et que le vent qui commence à souffler peut devenir une tempête. Nous ne tarderons pas à être emporté par elle, et ceci ne peut pas plaire à ceux qui cherchent désespérément à anéantir la légende d'Abou Ali.

Souhail Al Sweis

Société

Les boulangers craignent d'être dans le pétrin

Depuis quelques semaines, les rumeurs d'augmentation du prix du pain inquiètent les Jordaniens. Le gouvernement assure que celle-ci, si elle est appliquée, n'affectera que les couches les plus aisées de la population. Mais les petits boulangers craignent eux de ne pas pouvoir survivre si le prix de la farine augmente.

Luttant contre la chaleur infernale dégagée par son four, un boulanger du quartier de Djebel Hussein peste: «on a à peine de quoi vivre et maintenant le gouvernement veut augmenter les prix.»

Depuis quelques semaines, la rumeur d'une hausse du prix du pain court en effet en Jordanie.

Elle est due à la décision du ministère de l'approvisionnement de réduire les coûts d'importation des aliments de base tels que la farine ou le riz en les partageant avec le secteur privé.

«Notre but est de privatiser le

domaine de l'approvisionnement en Jordanie afin de permettre au secteur privé de prendre des responsabilités dans l'économie nationale», a expliqué récemment le Ministre de l'Approvisionnement, Mounir Sobar, devant les caméras de la télévision jordanienne. Selon Mounir Sobar, les coûts d'achat du blé sont aujourd'hui de 245 dollars la tonne, contre 140 dollars auparavant.

«On étudie actuellement les différents moyens possibles pour partager les responsabilités avec le secteur privé en ce qui concerne l'importation du

blé», explique Ahmad Merahi, secrétaire général du ministère de l'approvisionnement.

Cette privatisation possible effraie aujourd'hui beaucoup d'habitants qui craignent de voir le prix du pain augmenter. De son côté, le gouvernement tient lui à préciser qu'aucune hausse n'affectera les familles vivant de bas revenus.

Le but du ministère est de aider ceux qui en ont besoin. Selon les critères du ministère, les prix resteront les mêmes pour tous les salariés gagnant moins de 500 dinars par mois. «Pourquoi accorder des prix subventionnés aux gens aisés

alors que l'on peut consacrer cette aide aux gens pauvres. Le secteur privé peut s'occuper des couches aisées de la population et alléger nos responsabilités», explique Ahmad Merahi.

«Le ministère paie déjà 2/3 du prix de pain et laisse le citoyen payer le tiers restant». Les plus inquiets sont en fait les boulangers artisanaux qui s'attendent à une hausse du prix des matières premières si le secteur privé a la liberté de fixer les prix. «Je pense sérieusement à quitter ma boulangerie à Amman et partir chez moi», avoue Abou Ali, propriétaire d'une boulangerie artisanale à Wadi Sakra.

Une réforme qui inquiète

La situation des petits boulangers n'est pas rassurante. Leur pain est pétri avec les mêmes ingrédients que ceux employés par les boulangeries industrielles.

C'est bien sûr au niveau du temps de travail qu'une différence importante existe. Le produit fini n'est pas non plus le même, au niveau de l'épaisseur et de la couleur: avec un kilo de pâte, un boulanger traditionnel fait 4 ou 5 pains alors qu'une boulangerie industrielle peut en faire jusqu'à six ou sept. Le prix du pain, lui, ne change pas: tout le monde le vend 85 fils le kilo.

«Dans les grandes boulangeries, ils peuvent se ramper avec le pain de luxe comme le pain à hamburgers ou le pain en mie. Nous, nous arrivons à peine à faire du profit», raconte Abou Zuhdi, qui tient une boulangerie à l'entrée du camp de réfugiés de djebel al Hussein.

«Je me demande comment



Elément essentiel, le pain est un bien précieux pour la population qui craint aujourd'hui de devoir l'acheter à un prix plus élevé.

les petits boulangers peuvent survivre?», s'interroge l'adid qui travaille avec le ministère de l'Approvisionnement pour la distribution de la farine dans les boulangeries à Amman.

Une tonne de farine qui dure environ deux semaines dans une boulangerie artisanale, coûte autour de 55 dinars. «Il faut aussi ajouter le prix du fuel pour le four, et le salaire de cinq ouvriers. En plus il nous faut changer quelques pièces chaque deux ou trois mois», explique Abou Zuhdi.

La recette d'une journée suf-

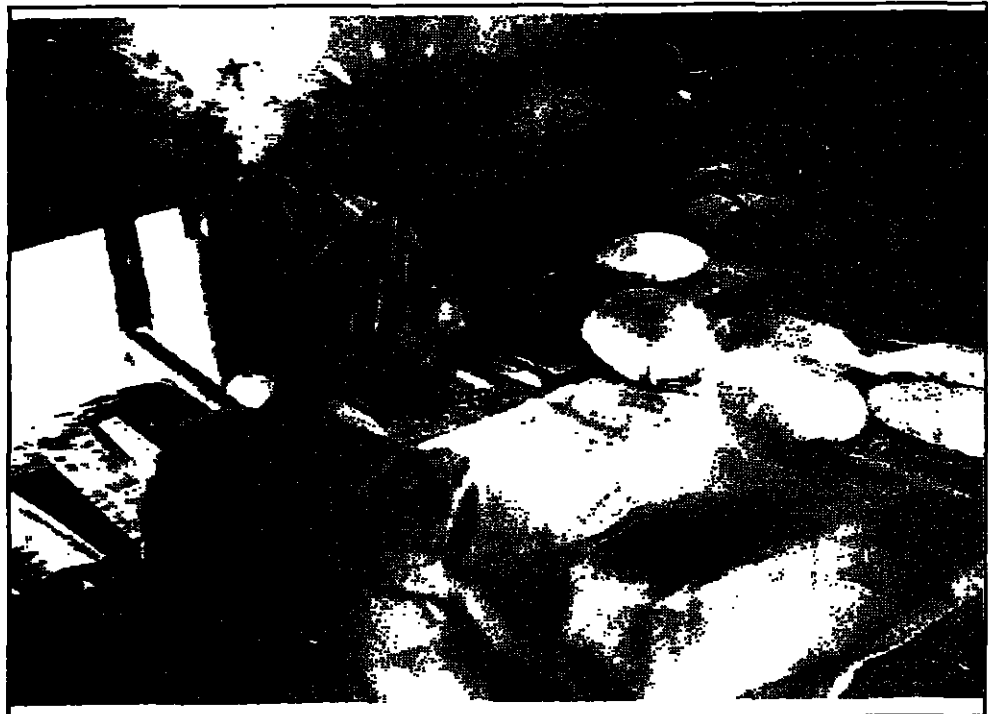
fit à peine pour payer la tonne du lendemain. «Il nous arrive régulièrement qu'environ 200 pains ne soient pas vendus. Dans ce cas-là, je vends ces pains à moitié-prix dans le camp, ou alors je le donne», ajoute Abou Zuhdi. «Comment faire, si les prix des matières premières augmentent à cause du secteur privé?»

Elément indispensable des repas, le pain ne peut-être boycotté par personne. «Même si le kilo passe à 250 fils, je suis obligé de l'acheter», explique une mère de 7 enfants qui habite au camp de réfugiés.

Généralement le prix de pain est étudié et fixé selon des calculs précis qui prennent en compte l'évolution des salaires. «Evidemment, nous n'allons pas imposer à des citoyens peu aisés des prix incroyables», explique Ahmad Merahi pour rassurer les boulangers et la population.

Une inquiétude qui ne pourra être dissipée qu'après l'annonce officielle du gouvernement qui doit faire approuver cette réforme par le Parlement.

Oroub El Abed



Les boulangers artisanaux sont en fait les plus inquiets: contrairement à la population qui continuera à bénéficier de prix subventionnés, ils ont peur de voir le prix de la farine augmenter.

Sciences

Une nouvelle publication sur la Jordanie

Le Centre d'études et de recherches sur le Moyen-Orient contemporain d'Amman vient de publier le premier numéro de *Jordanies*. Un bulletin scientifique semestriel qui a pour but l'amélioration de la collecte et de la diffusion d'informations concernant la Jordanie.

Le Centre d'études et de recherches sur le Moyen-Orient contemporain (Cermoc) est un institut de recherches en sciences sociales dépendant du ministère français des affaires étrangères. La mission du Cermoc est définie par un conseil scientifique siégeant à Paris qui comprend des représentants d'universités et de centres de recherches français et européens.

Une dizaine de personnes travaillent dans l'antenne jordanienne de cet institut. De nationalité italienne, Riccardo Bocco, secrétaire scientifique et responsable du Cermoc à Amman, nous explique comme ce centre fonctionne et quel est le but de la publication du bulletin *Jordanies*.

Quand a été fondé le Cermoc?

Riccardo Bocco: Le Cermoc a été fondé à Beyrouth en 1977. Ses activités scientifiques ont été suspendues à partir de 1983, à la suite de l'enlèvement puis du décès de Michel Saurat qui était alors son secrétaire scientifique. Michel Saurat avait publié plusieurs écrits sur la Syrie.

Le Cermoc a ensuite décidé d'ouvrir une antenne à Amman. En 1988. Et après la réouverture des bureaux de Beyrouth, on a décidé de la conserver.

Quel est l'objectif du Cermoc?

Riccardo Bocco: Le Cermoc a une mission scientifique qui s'articule autour de trois volets. Nous aspirons à favoriser le développement de la connaissance sur le devenir des sociétés du Moyen-Orient. Nous coopérons avec différentes institutions universitaires dans les pays de la région autour de projets académiques d'intérêts communs, contribuant ainsi à construire un débat intellectuel et une compréhension mutuelle

appartenance. Enfin, nous remplissons une mission pédagogique en accueillant et en formant des chercheurs en sciences sociales. Ils découvrent ainsi le travail sur le terrain dans les pays couverts par les activités du centre.

De quels outils dispose le Cermoc pour ses recherches?

Riccardo Bocco: Nous disposons d'une grande bibliothèque à Beyrouth et d'une autre à Amman. La première comprend environ 30 000 ouvrages s'intéressant au Liban, à la Syrie, au Moyen-Orient.

Le centre d'Amman comprend lui 4500 volumes, concentrés sur la Jordanie, la Palestine, et une grande partie de la péninsule arabique.

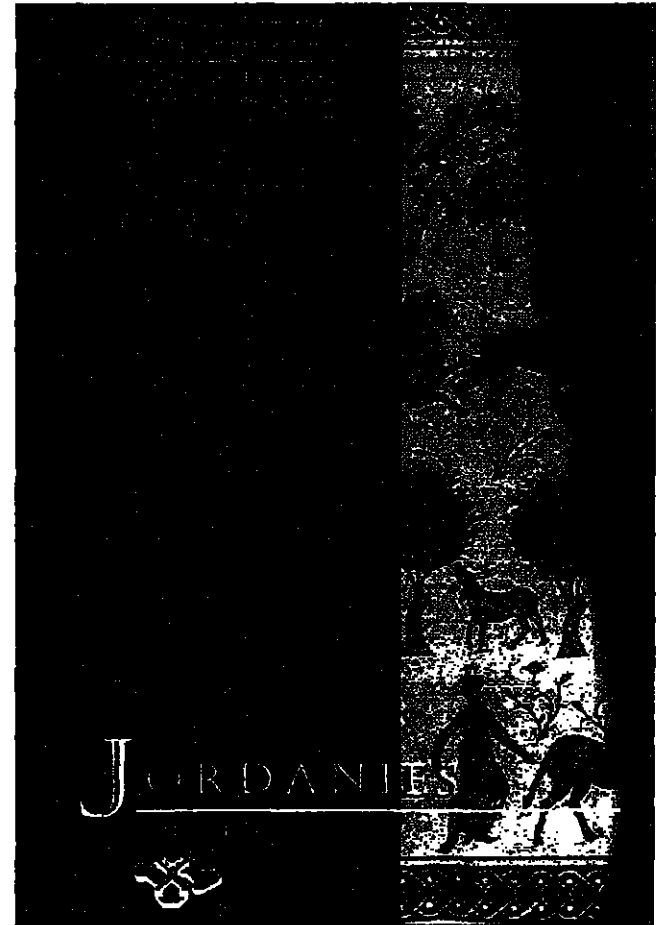
Comment le Cermoc est-il financé?

Riccardo Bocco: Jusqu'à présent, il a été principalement financé par la France. L'Union Européenne y contribue en partie en finançant, par exemple, des colloques. Et elle s'est engagée à soutenir financièrement dans l'avenir notre nouveau bulletin, *Jordanies*. C'est le service culturel de l'ambassade de France qui nous aide pour les deux premiers numéros.

Quel est l'objectif de ce bulletin?

Riccardo Bocco: Le but de ce premier bulletin est de répondre au besoin de création d'un instrument pour la collecte et la diffusion de données de la recherche, et aussi d'offrir un lieu d'échange pour les informations scientifiques.

Jordanies s'adresse à un public de chercheurs désireux de disposer d'informations complètes, de compte-rendus scientifiques et non idéologiques. Ce premier numéro est concentré sur les études des chercheurs en démographie, géographie, ethnologie, sociologie,



sciences politiques et histoire traitant de la Jordanie de 1850 à nos jours.

Ce bulletin a été imprimé dans une version franco-anglaise mais on souhaiterait qu'il puisse, dans l'avenir, être publié en arabe.

Quel est la diffusion de ce bulletin?

Riccardo Bocco: Ce semestriel a été tiré à 700 exemplaires. C'est un numéro test distribué aux centres de recherche et aux chercheurs. On pense tirer le deuxième exemplaire, prévu en décembre, à

700 numéros, et le proposer à la vente.

Sur quels autres projets travaille le Cermoc?

Riccardo Bocco: Nous avons un projet de recherches sur l'histoire des 50 années d'indépendance de la Jordanie, ainsi que sur les relations entre la Jordanie et la Palestine. Le financement de ces projets est assez diversifié, et la Suisse, notamment, y participera.

Souhail Retit Ennimer

Santé

La cigarette garde la vedette

Dans la société jordanienne, les méfaits de la cigarette sont encore largement méconnus. Peu d'études existent en effet ici, contrairement aux Etats-Unis ou aux pays européens.

Lorsque Jean Nicot

cot, ambassadeur de France au Portugal, a apporté à Marie de Médicis au 16ème siècle un échantillon de tabac venu d'Amérique, ce n'était que pour vanter ses nombreuses qualités et son pouvoir de guérison de certaines maladies. Aujourd'hui, le tabac est considéré comme étant responsable de la mort de 400 000 Américains par an, soit beaucoup plus que le nombre de soldats américains tombés lors de la deuxième guerre mondiale et les deux guerres de Corée et du Vietnam réunies.

Il y a aujourd'hui dans le monde plus d'un milliard de fumeurs et les statistiques prévoient pour 2001 le décès d'environ 2 millions de personnes à cause du tabac. Un rapport de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé paru le mois dernier fait lui état de la disparition de 62 millions de personnes à cause du tabac depuis 1950.

En Belgique, par exemple, 43% des Belges âgés entre 14 et 16 ans fument, tandis qu'en France 75% des garçons et 70% des filles de plus de 18 ans sont fumeurs. Au Japon, 15% des femmes fument, un chiffre qui atteint 70% chez les hommes. La Chine compte à elle seule 300 millions de fumeurs.

Certes les campagnes d'information anti-tabac ont réduit de façon significative le nombre de fumeurs dans certains pays comme aux Etats-Unis où le pourcentage de fumeurs est passé en 25 ans de 52 à 32%.

En dehors du cancer, notamment du poumon ou de la gorge, la cigarette est considérée comme un facteur de risque majeur pour les maladies cardiovasculaires, entraînant notamment des infarctus. D'autre part, le tabac est aussi responsable de l'élévation de la pression artérielle et du taux de cholestérol dans le sang. Toutes

ces maladies sont dues à la présence de la nicotine dans le tabac qui est responsable du phénomène de dépendance empêchant de nombreux fumeurs de mettre un terme à leur intoxication tabagique.

Chez les femmes, on doit insister sur l'apparition de trombooses veineuses ou d'accidents emboliques, surtout lorsqu'elles utilisent des contraceptifs oraux. De plus, le cancer du poumon est aujourd'hui le premier cas de cancer chez les femmes alors qu'il n'arrivait qu'en dixième position en 1955.

Sans une réelle volonté d'arrêter de fumer, il est difficile de convaincre les gens de ne plus fumer malgré toutes les campagnes d'information qui existent. Et ici tout particulièrement, où la cigarette est tolérée partout, y compris dans les transports ou les lieux publics.

Suhail Al Sweis

C'est la vie

Légende française d'Amman

Vidéo

Hommage à Krzysztof Kieslowski, cinéaste polonais décédé en mars dernier.
Ce n'est qu'après vingt ans d'activité que ce réalisateur polonais connaît une véritable reconnaissance internationale avec «La double vie de Véronique» en 1991. Il devient ensuite un hôte privilégié de la France et se lance dans un triptyque: «Trois couleurs: Bleu-Blanc-Rouge» (1993-1994) qui décline la symbolique de 1789 (Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité). «Blanc» puis «Rouge», le 1er juillet à partir de 20h au CCF.

Expo-photo

«Heureux dimanche»: 35 tirages noir et blanc illustrent un demi-siècle (1913-1966) de loisirs, de plaisirs et de divertissements vus par des photographes inscrits dans le mouvement humaniste (Denise Colomb, Marcel Bovis...).

Du 1er au 20 juillet au Centre culturel français.

Activities

Royal Cultural Centre	661026/7	Concord Cinema	677420
American Centre Library	820101	Plaza Cinema	699238
British Council	636147/8	Philadelphia Cinema	634144
French Cultural Centre	637009		
Goethe Institute	641993		
Cervantes Institute (Spanish)	610858		
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777		
Haya Arts Centre	665195		
Y.W.C.A.	641793		
Y.W.M.A.	664251		
Dar al Funun	643252		
Alia Art Gallery	639303		
Badana Art Gallery	657132		
Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	675571		
Nabil & Hisham's Theatre	625155		

Airlines

Algerian	641271/2	Adria Airways	667029
Australian	673246/7	Aeroflot	641510
Austrian	644635	Aeromexico	694802
Bahraini	664148/9	Air Canada	630879
Brazilian	642183	Air France	666055/667824
Belgian	675683	Air India	688301/2
Bulgarian	818151	Air Lanka	682140
Canadian	666124	Alitalia	625203
Chilean	823360	Aljazeera (Air Yemen)	653691
Cyprus Honorary Cons	677559	American Airlines	669068
Czech	671813/666135	Arab Wings	894484
Danish Consulate Gen	603703	Austrian Airlines	693845/694604
Finnish Consulate	824654/824676	Balkan Airlines	665909
French	641273/4	British Midland	694802
German	689351	British Airways	828801
Greek	671331/2	Cathay Pacific	628596
Hungarian	815614	China Airlines	636232
Icelandic Consulate	698851	Cyprus Airways	667028
Indian	637262	Delta Air Lines	643661
Indonesian	828911	Egypt Air	630011
Iraqi	639331	Emirates Airlines	643341
Italian	638185	Gulf Air	653613
Japanese	672486/7	Hungarian Airlines	622275
Kuwait	675135/8	Iberia	637827/644036
Libyan	693101/3	Iran Air	628286
Lebanese	641381	Japan Airlines	630879
Moroccan	641451	KLM	622175
Netherlands	619699/619693	Korean Airlines	676624/662236
New Zealand Consulate	636720	Libyan Arab Airlines	643831/2
North Korean	666340	Lufthansa	601744
Norwegian Embassy	644932/4	Malaysian Airline	639575/653446
Omani	686155	MEA	636104
Pakistani	622787	Olympic	630125/638433
Palestine	677517	Philippine Airlines	640200
People's Rep. of China	666139	PIA	625981
Philippines	645161	Polish Airlines	625981
Polish	637153	Qantas	862288
Qatar	682666	Royal Jordanian	678321
Romanian	667738	Saudia	639333
Russian	641158	Scandinavian Airlines	604499
Saudi Arabian	814154/6	Singapore Airlines	676177
Slovenia Honorary Cons	861542	Sudan Airlines	694501
Sri Lanka Consulate	645312	Swiss Air (G.S.A.)	659791/641906
South Korean	660745/6	Syrian Air	622147
South Africa	811194	United Airlines	641959
Spanish	614166/9	US Air	694801/2
Sudanese	644251/2	TAROM-Romanian	637380
Swedish	669177/9	Thai Airways	637195
Swiss	686416/7	Trans World Airline	623430
Syrian	641076	Turkish Airlines	659102
Taiwan	671530	Yemenia Airways	628175
Tunisian	674307/8	Queen Alia Airport	(08) 53200
Turkish	641251	RJ Flight Info	(08) 53200
U.A.E.	643347/643341		
United Kingdom	823100		
United States	820101		
Yemen	642381		
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ECSCWA	694351/8		
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UNDP/WFP	668171/7		
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UNICEF	629571		
UNESCO	606559		

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Aqaba	314091
Aqaba Gulf Hotel	316636
Aquamarina I	316250
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Holiday Int'l	312426
Miramar	314340

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Ambulance	199
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	787111

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Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Al-Bashir, Ashrafieh	775111/26
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
Amal Hospital	674155
Army, Marka	891611/15
Hussein Medical Centre	813813
Italian-Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Khaledi Maternity	644281/6
Malhas, J. Amman	636141
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
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Government Depts.

The Prime Ministry	641211	Labour	698186
Amman Greater Municipality	636111	Municipalities & Environment	641393
Agriculture	686151	Parliamentary Affairs	641211
Awqaf & Islamic Affairs	666141	Planning	644466
Culture / Jabal Amman	636391	Post & Communications	624301
Education & Higher Education	669181	Public Health	665131
Energy & Mineral Resources	815615	Public Works & Housing	668481
Finance	636321	Social Development	673191
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Industry & Trade	663191	Tourism & Antiquities	642311
Information	641467	Transport	641461
Interior Ministry	663111	Water & Irrigation	680100
Justice	663101	Youth / University	604701

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THE STAR'S WORKSTATION COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

Edited by Zeid Nasser

The profound impact of email on the fax's future:

To fax or to email, there is no question

Jawad Abbassi
Special to The Star

THE COMMUNICATIONS revolution is one of the most important factors in spearheading the trend to a more global economy.

The family of the telegraph, telephone and telex technology has increasingly allowed business people to communicate effectively and, thus, has all facilitated the performance of business across borders. A relatively new addition to the communications family, the fax, grew to become a very popular and effective way to send messages instantly over phone lines. Also, the fax's retaining of the messages' original shape allowed for sending diagrams and pictures which added to its popularity.

While the fax was enjoying its glory days as the ultimate communications solution for business, a new entrant was making constant progress towards removing the fax from the helm. The Internet's most common use, email, was steadily moving away from usage confined to academia and research centers to becoming a cost effective business communications tool.

While the Internet started as a project for the US Defense Department to be later used by universities for research purposes, it soon found its strong applicability in business through its email—for communica-

tions—and World Wide Web—for advertisement and interactive commerce.

As making use of email over the Internet only requires investing in a modem, a computer and getting an email address from an Internet Service Provider, busi-

nesses—and World Wide Web—have added to the attractiveness of email over the use of faxes.

Of course, using email required that the receiving party also has an email address, which wasn't always possible.

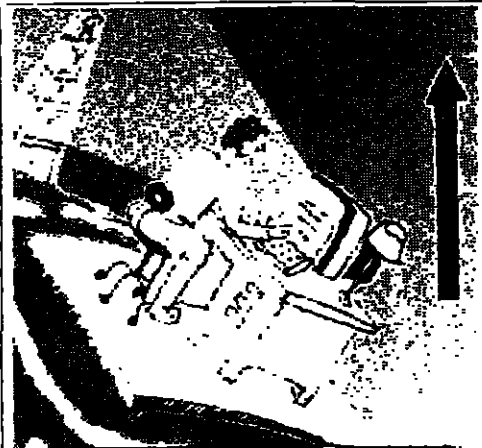
Fax, therefore, remained the only option to communicate with the Internet's new and untapped world (i.e. countries without a big Internet community).

This last hurdle, however, didn't stop email providers from coming up with ways to still make use of email to reduce their customers' fax bills. This could be achieved by offering "email to fax" services. These services mainly relay the fax as an email message to a fax broadcasting server nearer to the destination, faxing the email message from that server. Consequently, this results in a reduced fax charge as the email message is sent from a place with cheaper fax rates. Unlike Call Back services, this is quite a legal operation: a fax sent from Jordan to the US would be relayed as email over the Internet to a fax gateway in the US to be faxed from there. It, therefore, will not use Jordan's international phone circuits without paying for it, as Call Back services do. Rather, it will be relieving the international phone circuit of Jordan from some of its load which will improve the service for the regular users of phones and faxes.

It would be a safe bet to say that regular fax-to-fax and email-to-fax communications will keep on diminishing, handing over more and more traffic volume to email messaging. This trend's

momentum will increase as the Internet explores its new world and starts propagating the concepts of cost effective and reliable communications around the world.

The fax, therefore, would continue to live its final years under constant pressure from its young sibling—email—to finally move into the background like its predecessor: the telegraph. This may be to the bad fortune of the fax, but it would certainly be to the increased glory of the communications family.



momentum will increase as the Internet explores its new world and starts propagating the concepts of cost effective and reliable communications around the world.

Jawad Abbassi can be reached at email address: abbassi@NETS.com.jo

Have you noticed:
Everyone is talking about the Internet and on-line services. The Workstation page is turning into the forum for these topics. Fax us on 648298 or email us at Star@NETS.com.jo with your views. We and our readers want to know them.

BYTE Ltd. announces ByteQuest v4 & OptiFax 2

BYTE LTD recently witnessed a marked activity with the release of ByteQuest v4 and OptiFax 2.

ByteQuest v4 is a production level document & image management system. The new version adds to ByteQuest a range of new capabilities that enhance its functionality as well as its scalability and flexibility. It features a 32 bit (NT and Windows 95) ODBC compliant hierarchical file classification module that provides advanced File Folder Management functions. This allows ByteQuest users to organize documents in a multi-level filing structure that is presented to users in a visual tree several levels deep.

Enhancements in input, storage and output features provide easier and more powerful image manipulation and transfer. It also provides new security, extending document access security to the page and sub-page levels. ByteQuest v4 features an intimate integration

with the PC DOCS Open Document Management System to provide a seamless environment for the management of document images, texts and paper. Users can profile text documents from Word, WordPerfect, Excel and others in DOCs Open. Then, they can be classified in the hierarchical file classification structure built-in ByteQuest v4.

Also, Byte Ltd. announced the release of the OptiFax 2, the first solution for the automatic capture, storage and retrieval of all fax transmissions through an organization's fax machine.

The OptiFax system is an advanced and versatile facsimile capture and management system capable of automatically intercepting incoming and outgoing facsimile transmissions without any interference with the flow of these faxes to their target destinations. Intercepted faxes are automatically filed into the OptiFax system using key identifiers including the source and destination phone numbers, the time and date stamps, and the number of

pages transmitted. Once a fax document has been captured and filed in OptiFax, it can be searched for using one or a combination of the key labels it was filed under. It can then be retrieved on screen or sent to a printer. The fax images can be stored on magnetic storage, optical storage or CD-ROM subsystems. WORM (Write Once Read Many) technology and erasable technology are supported.

As businesses rely heavily on fax systems, there is a need for a reliable and accurate record of all transmitted and received faxes, also providing the ease of retrieval upon demand. That's what OptiFax 2 seeks to provide, comprehensively.

Byte Ltd. is a leading developer of open client/server based document & image management and workflow automation systems.

For more information on Byte Ltd. products in Jordan, contact Tansah Information Systems Group (TISG) at telephone 689252.

News update

Sizzling performance from AST Advantage home PCs

● AST has introduced its new Advantage multimedia PCs in the Middle East.

The new Advantage PC offers a range of Intel Pentium processors, including a 166MHz model, the fastest Pentium processor on the market. AST has boosted the performance of its Advantage line with 6x CD-ROM drives and triple-disc changers. Advantage PCs come bundled with a wide selection of popular CD software titles.

As the Internet continues to take hold in the Middle East, AST has equipped the new-

generation Advantage models with high-speed 28.8 Kbps modems and, with Microsoft Windows 95 installed as standard including Microsoft Explorer Internet browser, the new model is all set to go on-line.

Sakhr Software on the World Wide Web

● The giant Arabic software publisher, Sakhr Software, has established a site on the World Wide Web, in a move that pioneers the use of the Internet as a medium to promote Arabic software products.

The Sakhr site comprises of several parts. There's a news section, including information on all the latest Sakhr product and mentions in the media. Another part provides customer services and support by offering a forum for users to post enquiries or technical problems. To be answered by specialists or even other users.

Sakhr's Web site also offers something for distributors and dealers for the company's products, which resembles an electronic "dealer network". This facilitates communications between them and the flow of information.

● The really interesting part is "Sakhr Shop", which allows users to place product orders online, which are later delivered

and billed for. Soon, once fully developed, this part may offer actual monetary exchange by which buyers can pay on-line.

According to Arabia On-Line, the company responsible for developing and maintaining the site, there have been very impressive numbers of visitors to the Sakhr site since its establishment.

To check out Sakhr's site on the World Wide Web, log into address: <http://sakhr.com>.

Scanning devices get 'tucked' into computer parts

● An interesting trend worth looking out for is the recent introduction of fully functional scanning devices embedded in computer parts such as keyboards and CPU cases.

Compaq has announced a new keyboard that incorporates a scanner, as part of its 7000 PC range.

Hewlett-Packard (HP), always a leader in the scanner field, is providing a complete scanner unit along with the recent Pavilion PC range. Prospects for such scanner devices appearing in hardware from other companies are high.

It could herald in a new era of omnipresent scanning. From the looks of it, scanners may become as common as multimedia, in future PC systems.

INTERFACE

BY ZEID NASSER

Where are the shows?

IT'S SUMMER TIME and the local computer market seems to have regained that busy atmosphere, with all sorts of product launches and announcements underway.

Still, one thing that has baffled me so far this year is the absence of several computer shows, especially single company shows which used to take place every year.

Normally, by June, Jordanians would have been treated to several computer and information technology events.

Every year, Ideal Systems used to hold its Apple Expo around April or May, and Scientific & Medical Supplies Co. (SMS) would hold its own exhibition around that time too. That is, not to mention, other company shows that may take place, irregularly, such as General Computer & Electronics, Special Systems Co. and others.

So, what's the story? Where are the public events?

Have the leading computer companies in the country found that their single shows are not fruitful?

Don't get me wrong. There are many product launch events still being held by many companies, but invitees are usually members of the press and prominent clients. These do not constitute public computer events.

Of course, Jordanian computer companies actively participate in the two large computer events in the country: the American Computer Products Show, in February, and the Middle East Technology Show (METS) in late October. Still, does it make sense that, from February to October, not one single show is held?

Considering that the first show does not cover products from Europe, the Far East or even our region, you have to stop to wonder whether METS, held at the end of year, is enough to satisfy the needs of distributors and buyers in the local market?

Taking a look at neighboring markets, such as Syria, you come to realize that the situation is totally different. During April and May alone, over three computer shows are held, which are geographically spread out in different cities of the country.

In Lebanon, there are more computer shows. In Egypt too. So, how come our market, called by many, "one of the most computer literate markets in the Middle East", is becoming so quiet? Does it have anything to do with the economic situation in the country? I wonder.

Surely, computer shows present worthwhile opportunities for companies to introduce their latest to customers, creating sales of some sort. Now, especially, there are so many new and exciting developments in fields like communications and multimedia.

Computer companies and show organizers out there! Give us valid answers or, otherwise, get moving.

Allegations about 'Ask the Government' on NETS

An article published last week in *Al Quds Al Arabi* newspaper stated that things were not going so smoothly on the 'Ask the Government' Forum, offered by the Bulletin Board Service, NETS. It said that the government was not answering questions posted by users and that the forum may close down as a result.

This stirred up a bit of an issue among the Jordanian on-line community. Accordingly, officials at NETS stated that there is no truth in the report. On the contrary, the Prime Minister's office and the Minister of Information, personally, see to it that enquiries are answered and discussed; of course, within the acceptable limits of timing allowed to government officials for on-line interaction, as they have hectic schedules. Anyway, this whole matter projects an interesting aspect of the on-line revolution Jordan is witnessing. Frankly, I think that government officials who take time to get involved in on-line discussions should be saluted. I suppose users on NETS, who have enjoyed the interaction offered, would salute them too.

Euro '96 England, Germany, France, Czech go for trophy

GERMANY COACH Berti Vogts believes his team go into Wednesday's European championship semifinal with England at Wembley as underdogs.

"England are the clear favorites," Vogts said on the eve of the contest on Tuesday. "They have got better and better as the tournament has gone on. But there is 90 minutes of football to play."

Midfielder Andy Moeller said: "There is a lot against us—the injuries, the number of home fans. There will be a lot of pressure. But it is a great challenge to try to beat England on their own soil."

England have not beaten the Germans in a competitive match since they won the World Cup final in 1966. But Vogts's side has been struggling with injuries throughout Euro '96 and will definitely be without captain and key striker Juergen Klinsmann on Wednesday after he tore a calf muscle in their quarter-final victory over Croatia.

The English fans and media have been quick to make parallels with the 1966 final. Vogts tried to play down the significance of the game in emotional terms at a news conference at the Germans' central London hotel.

But the 49-year-old trainer still managed to mention England's controversial third goal 30 years ago which most Germans still maintain did not cross the line.

"We are used to being in semifinals. For us, this is a normal European championship clash," said Vogts who did not play at the 1966 tournament but has been involved in several major England-Germany clashes as a player and a coach.

Vogts rarely gives clues about his line-ups before a game. On Tuesday, he even tried to con the media that his medical team might still be able to get Klinsmann fit for his first full appearance at Wembley.

His efforts failed miserably when the Bayern Munich striker turned up a few minutes later and ruled out his chances

of playing. Vogts said he had yet to decide who would captain the side in Klinsmann's absence. Moeller or experienced midfielder Thomas Haessler are expected to be the two leading candidates.

Defender Thomas Helmer and wing-back Stefan Reuter, who have both been struggling with knee injuries, are expected to play.

Vogts is expected to name just one striker in Turkey-based forward Stefan Kuntz and play three attacking midfielders in Moeller, Haessler and Mehmet Scholl who made his Euro '96 debut against the Croats.

Very few of the German team have experience of playing at Wembley. Although the home fans will outnumber the Germans, the team are relishing the challenge. "We know that this match could be the highlight of our careers," Moeller said. "We are looking forward to it and will give everything to beat them."

Croatia vs Portugal

Croatia coach Miroslav Blazevic admitted on Wednesday that his team's 3-0 defeat by Portugal gave him exactly what he wanted—a Euro '96 quarter-final against Germany.

"I always said I preferred to play Germany. Their kind of game is preferable for our style," he said.

Croatia, already assured of a place in the last eight before the match, fielded only four of the team which trounced Denmark on Sunday in their starting line-up.

"Obviously, we have somewhat destroyed the good image we created in our second match," Blazevic confessed after a performance in which his team played lethargically.

Portugal captain Rui Costa said he was surprised by the Croatians' attitude.

"I thought they would give everything for first place (in

the group)," he said. Portugal coach Antonio Oliveira did not want the weakened Croatia line-up to detract from his team's win.

"Croatia chose 11 players and they are still a good team. In the second half, they brought on three of their first-choice players and we still won," he said.

Czech v. Russia

The Czech Republic qualified for the quarterfinals of Euro '96 in sensational fashion on Wednesday after Russia appeared to have stolen their thunder in a memorable group C game at Anfield.

The Czechs, 2-0 ahead after just 19 minutes, looked to have blown their chances when Russian substitute Vladimir Beschastnykh rifled home a 25-meter shot in the 85th minute to put his side 3-2 ahead.

But just as it seemed Portugal's opponents in Birmingham on Sunday would be Italy, Czech substitute Vladimir Smicer raced on to a through ball and beat Russian goalkeeper Stanislav Cherchessov to salvage a 3-3 draw.

The Czech players had to wait for a few seconds before learning of Italy's goal-less draw against Germany, but their solitary point proved just enough to spark joyful mid-pitch celebrations.

Denmark v. Turkey

Denmark crushed misfiring Turkey 3-0 in their final group D match at Hillsborough. In front of a vast bank of their red-and-white army of fans, the Danes, who won the title on home soil in 1992, recovered from a dreary first-half performance to show glimpses of the once dynamic attacking play of former glories.

The Turks, cras-

venly defensive for most of the game and without a goal to show for their first appearance in the European finals, had little to offer in return but were unlucky late in the game when they had one effort disallowed.

By then, however, the two excellent Laudrup brothers had combined to put the game beyond their reach.

Brian Laudrup struck first for Denmark after 49 minutes and added a second six minutes from time after older brother Michael had set up Allan Nielsen to score the Danes second in the 69th minute.

A poor clearance by the Turkish defence fell to Michael Laudrup, lurking just outside the penalty area on the left.

The Danish captain threaded a diagonal ball through to Nielsen, who came into the box from the right and beat Rustu with a low shot.

Germany v. Italy

Brilliant goalkeeping by Germany's Andy Koepke sent Italy tumbling out of the European championship on Wednesday after a frustrating goal-less draw in their final group C clash.

Koepke was lucky not to be sent off in the eighth minute after he brought down Pierluigi Casiraghi with his feet when the Italian striker had broken clear in front of goal.

The Eintracht Frankfurt goalkeeper was not even booked for the foul and went on to save Gianfranco Zola's penalty and produce some superb saves later on to deny the World Cup runners-up the victory they

needed to stay in the competition.

Italian fans suffered their most frustrating night for years as their team failed to score against a stubborn German team who were reduced to 10 men in the 60th minute when wing-back Thomas Strunz was sent off for his second bookable offense.

The Italians finished level on points with the Czech Republic, who drew their final match with Russia 3-3. The Czechs went through on the basis of having beaten Italy 2-1 in the group clash at Anfield last week.

Spain v. England

England won 4-2 over Spain on penalties after 0-0 draw after extra time. Spain weathered an early England storm to end a goalless first half in command against the Euro '96 hosts 0-0 in their Wembley quarter-final on Saturday.

Veteran goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta made two diving saves in the opening four minutes after centre back Abelardo Fernandez won the fastest yellow card in the tournament.

The Barcelona player was booked for a tackle from behind on Blackburn striker Alan Shearer after just 19 seconds.

From the free kick, Zubizarreta had to dive to punch clear a low cross from right back Gary Neville.

He dived to his right four minutes later to divert a Shearer shot after Fernando Hierro had given away a poor clearance from the goalkeeper. Zubizarreta also tipped over a Tony Adams header from a free kick on the left by Paul Gascoigne.

Spain threatened the England goal mainly from the left through defender Sergi Barjuan. But the biggest scare for David Seaman came from the right four minutes before the interval.

The England goalkeeper dashed out of his penalty area to foil midfielder Javier Manjarin in a lightning Spanish counter-attack.

Spain twice had the ball in the net only for Kiko Narvaez to be ruled

offside in the 22nd minute and Julio Salinas 11 minutes later.

France v. Netherlands

France went through to the semi-finals of Euro '96 when they beat the Netherlands 5-4 in a penalty shoot-out at Anfield on Saturday.

Midfielder Clarence Seedorf missed his spot kick for the Dutch after the quarter-final had ended 0-0 following extra time.

It was the second quarter-final of the day to be decided by a shoot-out, England having beaten Spain 4-2 on penalties at Wembley.

The Netherlands, seeking to erase the memory of their 4-1 trouncing by England in the group phase, had started promisingly but lacked the finishing touch.

They went closest to a goal in the first half through Ronald de Boer, and good chances were also wasted by Patrick Kluitert, Dennis Bergkamp and Philip Cocu.

The game's tight, tactical pattern continued into the second half, though French confidence increased, with Zinedine Zidane shaving a post with a curling free kick.

Germany v. Croatia

The Klinsmann factor is bound to have a considerable bearing on Wednesday's European championship semifinal between Germany and England. Germany's "psychological leader" will miss the Wembley showdown because of a torn thigh muscle during Germany's acrimonious 2-1 win over 10-man Croatia Sunday.

The Germans are renowned for their professionalism in adversity, but then losing Juergen Klinsmann is something else.

He is one of the world's deadliest marksmen, having scored 38 times for his country. How will Germany cope without him against an England defense which has been prized open only twice in four Euro '96



English striker Alan Shearer breaking through the Spanish defence.

matches?

"It will be very hard," he said. "We still have a very good team but Juergen is such a key player. In front of their own crowd, England are probably favorites."

Goalkeeper Andy Koepke, who has played a key role in Germany's less than impressive run to the last four, said that without Klinsmann they had to pull together as a team.

"Juergen is a great loss because he is our playmaker and psychological leader who lifts us to new heights," said Koepke.

Klinsmann's only hope of lifting his teammates on Wednesday will be from the confines of the substitutes' bench.

"We have to think positively," he said. "At the 1990 World Cup, we had a tight win over the Czechs in the quarter-finals but came back to beat the English in the semifinals."

Certainly, coach Berti Vogts was remaining positive about the loss of his top striker.

Portugal dominated territorially but failed to break through the Czech Republic's stubborn defense as the last Euro '96 quarter-final reached halftime, without a goal on Sunday.

Both teams had one clear-cut chance. Czech defender Michal Horak put a free six-meter header over the Portuguese bar after 10 minutes and Fernando Couto had a powerful 20th minute header saved by Czech goalkeeper Petr Kouba.

German referee Hellmut Krug booked five players in a half that started brightly but soon turned scrappy. The first yellow card came after only 40 seconds when he booked Czech defender Jan Suchopatek for a tackle from behind.

He also booked Portugal's Helder and Ricardo Sá Pinto and Czechs Vladimir Smicer and Radek Lata. Czech coach Dusan Uhrin faces the daunting task on Tuesday of overcoming the loss of four players for the semifinal against France.

Defenders Radek Lata and Jan Suchopatek, midfielder Radek Bejbi and striker Pavel Kuka are suspended through foul of referees.

Portugal v. Czech

The Czech Republic 1-0 win over Portugal was a shock to Portugal fans. Karel Poborsky scored the Czech's score taking his team to semifinals.